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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
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28 March 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 28 March 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Members' and Peers' Correspondence

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I am today publishing a report on Departments' and agencies' performance on handling Members' and peers' correspondence during the calendar year 2010. Details are set out in the attached table. Correspondence statistics for 2009 can be found on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, 47-50WS.

Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated.

The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

Correspondence from MP/ Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2010

Correspondence from MP/ Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1]	*2010*		
Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*Number of letters received*	*% of replies within target*
Attorney-General's Office	20	150	73
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	15	13243	71
Companies House	10	109	100
Insolvency Service	10	42	64
Cabinet Office	15	3048	58[2]
Charity Commission	10	143	70
Department for Communities and Local Government	15	9117	77
Planning Inspectorate	7[3]	236	85
Crown Prosecution Service	20	460	98
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	20	4006	96[5]
Royal Parks[4]	10	20	95
Ministry of Defence	15	6072	77
Met Office	10	15	87
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	15	125	96
Department for Education	15	18512	42[6]
Department of Energy and Climate Change	15	6343	69
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	15	10944	83
Animal Health	15	121	95
Rural Payments Agency	15	552	63
Food Standards Agency			
DH Ministers replies	20	1081	83
FSA Chair/CE replies	20	121	83
Meat Hygiene Service[7]	15	18	100
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	9845	90
Government Equalities Office	20	666	80
Department of Health	20	17733	97
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	20	318	98*
	20	38	92**
*Agency Ministerial cases **Letters sent directly to agency chief executive or where agency chief executives responded on behalf of Ministers			
Home Office	15	13532	56[8]
Criminal Records Bureau	10	1072	70[9]
Identity and Passport Service	10	1014	87
UK Border Agency	20	57651	88
Department for International Development	15	3163	95
Ministry of Justice	15	4084	78
HM Courts Service	15	939	80
HM Land Registry	15	109	78
National Archives	15	36	92
National Offender Management Service	15	1190	70*
	20	348	89**
Office of the Public Guardian	15	191	89
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	15	43	79
Tribunals Service	15	264	86
*Where Ministers replied ** Where CEO replied			
Northern Ireland Office	15	649	78
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Schools	15	149	88
Office of Fair Trading	15	471	66
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	15	160	77
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15	218	83
Office of the Leader of the House of Lords	15	35	89
Office of Rail Regulation	20	70	84
OFWAT (Water Services Regulation Authority)	10	92	70
Postal Services Commission	5	11	73
Scotland Office	15	88	68
Serious Fraud Office	20	43	83
Department for Transport	15	8359	74
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	7	1622	99
Driving Standards Agency	10	158	100
Highways Agency	15	371	93
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	10	21	95
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	10	86	97
HM Treasury	15	10811	51[10]
H M Revenue and Customs	15	4028	75
HMRC CEO*	15	729	50

Correspondence from MP/ Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives in 2010

Correspondence from MP/ Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1]	*2010*		
Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*Number of letters received*	*% of replies within target*
•Cases where the HMRC's chief executive has replied directly, rather than Ministers			
Treasury Solicitor's Department	10	23	96
Wales Office	15	131	82
Department for Work and Pensions	20	19020	85
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	15	3967	99
Debt Management	15	28	86
Health and Safety Executive	15	93	92
Jobcentre Plus	15	3195	94
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	15	2047	100

[1] Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as freedom of information requests. Includes correspondence received from prospective parliamentary candidates.

[2] Performance has been affected by a 111% rise in correspondence following the formation of the new Government and machinery of government changes. Measures have been put in place to improve performance in 2011.

[3] With effect from 1 July, response target revised to seven working days.

[4] Response target reduced to 10 working days with effect from 1 September.

[5] From 28 June 2010 performance was monitored on 2537 letters received to departmental targets of two working days (46% achieved) and 10 working days (82%) achieved).

[6] DFE received an increase of 20% in correspondence received compared to the previous year (35% increase for May to December compared to the same period in the previous year) contributing to a downturn in performance. The Department is investing in new processes and resources to ensure improvement in 2011. Includes correspondence sent to the former DCSF.

[7] The Meat Hygiene Service was dissolved on 31 March.

[8] The drop in HO performance is attributed to a number of new policies being developed as well as policy areas being reviewed which resulted in a temporary delay in replies being sent.

[9] CRB experienced a 56% increase in correspondence during the fourth quarter of 2010.

[10] Includes correspondence received by OGC, NS&I and the Valuation Office. Performance increased in the first six months of the year to average 64%. The Election, Emergency Budget, Autumn Statement and the Spending Review public consultation exercise increased correspondence levels, resulting in a temporary drop in performance. Correspondence levels are expected to remain high but with a departmental focus on improving performance taking place.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Extraordinary Energy Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I was unable to attend the Council because of Cabinet business in London. Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the UK at the Council.

The extraordinary Energy Council began with a report by the Energy Commissioner of the impact of events in north Africa and Japan on the EU's energy market. Although there had been no significant impact on supplies as a result of events in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, there had been an impact on prices. The EU had 120 days of oil supply. Saudi Arabia and Russia had undertaken to cover any shortfalls in gas and oil supplies. There was general agreement that oil and gas markets were functioning well and that it was important to take a calm approach to reassure the market. The Council concluded that although there was no immediate problem with energy supply, the EU should take measures to increase its ability to deal with problems in the future, in line with the priorities agreed at the European Energy Council on 4 February.

The Commissioner then reported on the situation in Japan; and on the role of nuclear in the energy mix of the EU. He noted the right of member states to decide upon their own energy mix and that nuclear would continue to play a large role in the EU for the foreseeable future. He proposed that member states should work together to develop and approve an EU safety check for nuclear power plants. The UK agreed on the importance of a measured response based on the evidence and on lessons learned from the events in Japan. Most member states supported this position.

The Council concluded that the EU response to the situation in Japan should involve comprehensive risk and safety assessments ("stress tests") of nuclear power plants in Europe with full involvement of member states in determining how this should be done. EU neighbouring countries should also be involved in the assessment, as well as international bodies such as the G20 and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The EU should maintain high standards of nuclear safety, with a continual process of improvement. The Council agreed that communication with the public on these issues should be open and transparent.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): Today I am publishing the framework document for the new Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) being created on 1 April by the merger of two existing Executive agencies, Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) which I announced on 29 June 2010.

The new agency will be an Executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with the same remit as its predecessor bodies. In addition to its UK role and commercial activities it will help deliver the animal health and welfare strategy (GB) through regulatory and advisory activities and the provision of excellent science.

Copies of the framework have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses and it will also be placed on the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's website.

TRANSPORT

Greater London Authority Transport Grant (2011-12)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): Following consultation with the Mayor of London, I have today determined the Greater London Authority Transport Grant for 2011-12 at £2,804 million.

This grant is provided by the Government to Transport for London to deliver transport services and investment in the capital, including London Underground.

In line with my 20 October 2010 letter to the Mayor "Spending Review 2010: TfL funding agreement", £861 million of this grant is designated an investment grant to support delivery of the schemes and milestones, notably upgrade of the tube, set out in annex B of my 20 October letter, and the remaining £1,943 million is a general grant for the purposes of TfL.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit Shared Accommodation Rate

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): My hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State, responsible for welfare reform, Lord Freud of Eastry, has made the following statement.

The Government announced in last October's comprehensive spending review that it would extend the housing benefit shared accommodation rate to people under the age of 35 from 2012. This rate currently applies to people under the age of 25 and reflects the costs of renting non-self-contained accommodation in the private sector where the tenant has exclusive use of a bedroom but shares other facilities such as a bathroom.

We intend to bring forward these changes by three months so that they start to take effect from January 2012.

The local housing allowance reforms, to be introduced from this April, cap the level of payments to a maximum of a four bedroom rate and reduce local housing allowance rates so that they are based on the 30th percentile of rents rather than the median. They also introduce overall caps on the rate of local housing allowance for one, two, three and four-bedroom accommodation. Existing customers will be given up to nine months transitional protection from these reforms starting from the anniversary date of their claim.

By introducing the shared accommodation rate changes slightly earlier, this will bring the timing of the shared accommodation rate change more closely into line with the local housing allowance reforms for existing customers. It will ensure that single people aged 25 to 34 reaching the end of their transitional protection period will experience at that point a single reduction in their housing benefit, rather than two separate reductions.

That is why we have decided to bring forward the shared accommodation rate changes. We will publicise these proposed changes through appropriate channels to make sure that those affected are aware of them in advance.

Equality 2025 (New Chair)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): Equality 2025 is a non-departmental public body of publicly appointed disabled people, which was established in December 2006.

The group offers strategic, confidential advice to Government on issues that affect disabled people. This advice can include participation in the very early stages of policy development, or in-depth examination of existing policy. The group works with Ministers and senior officials across Government.

Rowen Jade chaired Equality 2025 from 1 December 2008 to 2 September 2010, when she sadly passed away. This recruitment exercise took place to find a candidate to continue Rowen's good work.

The recruitment exercise was carried out in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. The quality of applicants for the post was exceptionally high. I am pleased to announce the successful candidate and new chair of Equality 2025 from 1 April 2011 is Dr Rachel Perkins.

Rachel Perkins has been a member of Equality 2025 since 1 April 2010. I am confident she will lead the group forward during an interesting and challenging time.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 29 March 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sustainable Communities Act

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I have today launched a consultation on new, light-touch, regulations to govern the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

On 15 December the Secretary of State invited local authorities to consult their communities about how best to improve their local areas, and to take whatever action was necessary to make these ideas a reality. If councils find that a bureaucratic barrier prevents them from taking action they can submit a formal "proposal" asking the Government to remove the barrier. There is now an easy route to do this—through the new online portal at http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk. This portal is also open to anyone who wishes to ask the Government to remove a barrier which is stopping local action.

I want to remove the bureaucracy that surrounded the first invitation under the Act. I do not intend to regulate the actions of local authorities who wish to respond to the invitation, nor to regulate the duties of the selector—the Local Government Association—which in the past has had to shortlist proposals and engage in lengthy consultation with the Government about their implementation. Councils will no longer be required to take specific steps before submitting a proposal, or to submit proposals to a set deadline. We are turning government upside down to provide a much more direct and personal service dedicated to removing as many barriers to localism as possible.

There may be times, however, when a council which has submitted a proposal under the Act is dissatisfied with the reasons given by the Government about why a particular barrier cannot be removed. I intend, therefore, to set out in regulations a clear role for the selector to provide challenge to government in such cases. The selector will be able to resubmit a proposal with a requirement for the Secretary of State to consult and try to reach agreement with them, prior to reaching a final decision.

The consultation on the proposed regulations closes on 20 June 2011. I have placed a copy in the Libraries of both Houses.

EDUCATION

"The Early Years: Foundation for Life, Health and Learning"

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): The importance of the early years—as a foundation for life and for future attainment and success—cannot be overestimated. Children's personal, social, emotional, language and physical development are of paramount importance, and without strong foundations in these areas children will struggle as they develop in life, with friends and in school. That is why it is vital we have the right framework to support high-quality early-years education.

Progress has been made in improving young children's outcomes, but there is more to be done. Recognising this, in July last year I asked Dame Clare Tickell to launch an independent review of the early years foundation stage (EYFS). This sets out the standards that all early-years settings have to meet to help provide children with the best start, and so it is essential this is as strong as it can be. I am pleased to announce that tomorrow Dame Clare will be publishing the findings of her review in the report "The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning". Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I asked Dame Clare to consider four main areas:

Scope of regulation—whether there should be a single framework for all early-years providers;

Learning and development—looking at the latest evidence on how children are best supported in their learning and development and what is needed to give them the best start at school;

Assessment—how young children's development should be assessed;

Welfare—the minimum standards to keep children safe and support their healthy development.

Dame Clare will make recommendations in all these areas on how the EYFS could be improved and strengthened. The full details will be set out in her report.

I am thankful to Dame Clare for all the hard work that has gone into her review, and look forward to reading her report in detail. We will be looking to implement any changes from September 2012 onwards.

HEALTH

Health Select Committee Report (Revalidation of Doctors)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I have today laid before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 8028) to the House of Commons Health Select Committee's report "Revalidation of Doctors: Fourth Report of Session 2010-11" which was published on 8 February 2011.

Patients and the public have the right to expect that the doctors who care for them are up to date and fit to practise. This is why this Government are supporting the work of the General Medical Council and other partners to design and properly test a proportionate and streamlined system for revalidation that is right for the profession, the health sector, patients and the public. Revalidation, if implemented sensitively and effectively, is something that will support all doctors in their innate professional desire to improve their practice still further.

We have made clear our commitment to revalidation and have pressed ahead with the responsible officer regulations which came into force on 1 January 2011. Responsible officers will play a key role in supporting doctors to improve the quality of care they provide and in ensuring that prompt action is taken to protect patients where concerns arise about the practice of individual doctors.

The Government welcome this report by the Health Select Committee. The next year of testing revalidation will help develop a clearer understanding of the costs, benefits and practicalities of implementation so that it can be paced in a way that is affordable, supports high-quality care and makes effective use of doctors' time while providing assurance to patients and the public.

Copies of the Government's response are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Skills Conditionality (Response to Public Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): Today my hon. Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and I have published a joint response to the public consultation on the implementation of skills conditionality.

The consultation proposed that claimants could be mandated to undertake activity to address an identified skills need, putting this on the same basis as other conditionality requirements. We consulted on the implementation of skills conditionality in order to make it fair, consistent and as administratively straightforward as possible. We are grateful to those who took the time to respond and will be reviewing delivery plans in the light of the comments we have received.

The Government believe it is right that claimants who are able to look for work should be required to do so as a condition of receiving benefit. Getting the right skills is one way of preparing for work and failure to meet those responsibilities should result in a financial sanction.

Skills conditionality will be introduced in England from August 2011 and will apply to those claiming jobseeker's allowance and in the work-related activity group on employment and support allowance who are referred to training by a Jobcentre Plus adviser.

Copies of the consultation response are available on the DWP website at; http://dwp.gov.uk/consultations/.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 30 March 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Companies House

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I have set Companies House the following targets for the year 2011-12:

Public Target	*New Target*
Customer	
Customer Satisfaction (Quarterly)	86%
Accounts compliance rate—soft	98%
Resolve complaints within five days	98%
Service availability of Web filing	99.5%
Service availability of WebCHeck and Companies House Direct	99.5%
Search customers can access requested documents within 60 seconds	98%
To increase the proportion of transactions that can be filed electronically (by end March 2012)	92%
CEO to respond to all letters from MPs delegated to him to reply within 10 working days of receipt	100%
Process	
Electronic transactions received are available to view on the public record within 72 hours	98%
Images placed on Companies House image system are legible and complete	99.5%
To achieve an electronic filing target for accounts by year end	50%
To achieve an electronic filing target for all transactions apart from accounts by year end	78%
Reduce carbon emission rating of Companies House headquarters building by 10% by end of March 2012	10%
People	
Average work days lost per person	<10
Finance	
To achieve taking one year with another, a 3.5% average rate of return based on the operating surplus expressed as a percentage of average net assets	3.5%
Efficiency—saving on operational costs (year 1 of a new 3-year target)*	5%
Payment of invoices within five days of receipt (new target: December 2010)	80%

* This is a new three-year target to achieve by 2013-14 a reduction, in real terms, of 15% compared to 2010-11 in the operational monetary cost of the registry per company on the register.

National Measurement Office

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): I have tasked the National Measurement Office (NMS) to provide policy support to Ministers on measurement issues and a measurement infrastructure which enables innovation, promotes trade and facilitates fair competition and the protection of consumers, health and the environment.

I have set the National Measurement Office the following targets for 2011-12:

> Improve performance of the NMS programmes over the corporate plan period.
>
> Ensure 93% of meter examiner appointments, manufacturer authorisations/consents and modifications to meter approval and decisions are made within five business days.
>
> Achieve 90% of the planned income growth for certification, calibration and quality management certification.
>
> Generate a positive net contribution to consumers, the environment and the low-carbon economy through the activities of the enforcement authority.
>
> Reduce administration costs by 14% in cash terms over this corporate plan period.

These targets will be assessed on the following bases:

Target 1: The use of a scorecard technique across all programmes is being developed for use in 2011-12 to provide a basis for measuring this improvement.

Target 2: This will be measured from the time that all necessary documentation has been received and should ensure a timely metering service.

Target 3: The planned income growth is that shown in this plan representing the totality of the income streams expressed.

Target 4: This will be measured by comparing our cost base against the value of products made compliant, withdrawn from the market or affected by a formal business improvement plan.

TREASURY

Carbon Price Floor (Government Response)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): The Government have today published the Government's response to the consultation document on the carbon price floor.

The consultation document "Carbon price floor: support and certainty for low-carbon investment" set out the Government's proposal to provide greater support and certainty to the price of carbon in the power sector to encourage investment in low-carbon electricity generation.

Budget 2011 announced the introduction of a carbon price floor from 1 April 2013. The floor will start at around £16 per tonne of carbon dioxide (tCO_2) and follow a linear path to target £30/tCO_2 in 2020 (both in 2009 prices). The carbon price support rates in 2013-14 will be equivalent to £4.94/tCO_2.

The consultation sought views on how best to implement the proposal. A number of issues were raised by respondents throughout the consultation. These are addressed in the Government's response.

The Government intend to introduce legislation for the proposals in the 2011 Finance Bill (and subsequent secondary legislation) and to bring the proposals into effect from 1 April 2013.

Copies of the document have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Treasury website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 15 March 2011. The following items were discussed:

Economic Governance

The Council agreed a general approach on the package of six legislative proposals aimed at strengthening economic governance in the EU, particularly in the euro area. This agreement respected the provisions in the UK's protocol to the treaty. The UK negotiated a UK opt-out on the articles in the fiscal frameworks directive pertaining to fiscal rules and won a recital making clear that medium-term budgetary objectives referred to in the directive would not apply to the UK. Negotiations with the European Parliament will now take place with a view to finalising legislation by the summer.

Climate Finance

Ministers adopted Council conclusions on climate finance, which welcome and reaffirm the commitments on climate finance agreed at the UN negotiations in December 2010. The Government support these conclusions. ECOFIN will revisit climate finance following further work by the Commission, Economic and Financial Committee and the Economic Policy Committee. This work will set out the key elements of the mix of international and national, public and private finance instruments needed to deliver scaled-up financial flows after 2012.

Stability and Growth Pact Implementation

Hungarian and Polish Ministers informed the Council of measures they are taking in order to reduce their deficits below 3% of GDP, and an exchange of views followed. The Council called on them to ensure strict compliance with the recommendations it issued under the excessive deficit procedure. The Government agree that member states need to have credible deficit reduction plans in place.

Short Selling and Credit Default Swaps

The presidency updated Ministers on ongoing work on the draft regulation on short selling and credit default swaps. The intention of the regulation is to harmonise short selling requirements across the European Union and harmonise the powers that regulators may use in exceptional situations where there is a serious threat to financial stability or market confidence. The Government's position is that proposals should not impact market efficiency and liquidity, in particular in relation to sovereign debt. Further work will continue on this regulation before returning to ECOFIN in May for general approach.

AOB

Reform of financial regulations

The Council took stock of progress in the area of financial services regulation following a presentation from Commissioner Barnier. The Government are pleased with the progress which has been made since the financial crisis. However, it is critical that any proposals going forward have a clear evidence base and that thorough, objective impact assessments are carried out, along with extensive consultations.

G20 ministerial meeting in Paris

French Finance Minister, Christine Lagarde, informed the Council of the outcome of a G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and central bank governors held on 18-19 February. The Government believe that the G20 meeting was productive, and it was significant to reach agreement on a set of indicators for assessing external imbalances that threaten the world economy.

CABINET OFFICE

Educational Bodies (Oversight as Charities)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Nick Hurd): The Under-Secretary of State for Education, the Minister responsible for schools, my noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford and I are today announcing proposals for the oversight as charities of academies, sixth-form colleges and foundation and voluntary schools. In my capacity as Minister for civil society, I have day-to-day responsibility for the legal framework for charities in England and Wales. I believe that the measures I set out here will continue to ensure the appropriate and effective regulation of charities and therefore help maintain public trust and confidence in the charitable sector. The Department for Education, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Cabinet Office have worked closely with the Charity Commission to agree these proposals and the commission is content for the Secretary of State for Education to fulfil the principal regulator role in England, and the Welsh Assembly Government to fulfil the principal regulator role in Wales.

Under the Academies Act 2010, academy proprietors will be "exempt" charities. Exempt charities are not registered with, or directly regulated by, the Charity Commission. Instead the aim is, wherever possible, to appoint an existing regulator to be their principal regulator, with the additional duty of promoting charity law compliance. The objective of this approach is to ensure that there is oversight of exempt charities as charities, while shielding them from unnecessary or duplicative regulation.

It is proposed that the Secretary of State for Education is appointed to be the principal regulator of academy proprietors under the Charities Act 2006. It was originally proposed that the Young People's Learning Agency be appointed as the principal regulator as it currently undertakes much of the day-to-day work of funding and regulating academies on behalf of the Secretary of State. However, following the review of public bodies, the YPLA will, subject to the will of Parliament, be succeeded next year by an Education Funding Agency, an Executive agency of the Department for Education. Therefore, it is now considered more appropriate to appoint the Secretary of State for Education as principal regulator, because he has the existing roles of funding and regulating academies. In practice, the YPLA (and its proposed successor the EFA) would carry out much of the necessary information gathering which would then be used to report to and advise the Secretary of State. This arrangement will not impose any additional burden on academies or on the YPLA, and academies will no longer be required to register with the Charity Commission.

Sixth-form colleges which are charities (there are 94 in England) had their exempt status removed by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. We propose to re-confer exempt status on them and appoint the Secretary of State for Education as their principal regulator. As the YPLA already regulates the funding of sixth-form colleges by the Secretary of State, this is considered to be a more appropriate and proportionate approach to promoting their charity law compliance than requiring them, in addition, to register with and report to the Charity Commission. This arrangement will not impose any additional burden on sixth-form colleges or the YPLA.

Foundation and voluntary schools (there are over 8,100 in England and 175 in Wales) were, until April 2009, exempt charities. They are currently treated as if they are exempt charities under transitional provisions which will expire on 31 August 2011. The proposal is to re-confer exempt status on these governing bodies and appoint the Secretary of State for Education to be their principal regulator in England and the Welsh Assembly Government to be principal regulator in Wales. This was the preferred option on consultation in 2010, and is also considered to be more appropriate and proportionate than requiring them to register with, and report to, the Charity Commission in addition to the Department for Education or Welsh Assembly Government. Again, the arrangement will not impose any additional burden on foundation and voluntary schools.

There are safeguards which we will put in place to avoid any potential conflicts of interest and ensure that, as principal regulators, the Secretary of State and the Welsh Assembly Government will be able to maintain the integrity of charitable status. There will be memoranda of understanding between the principal regulators and the Charity Commission setting out their respective roles, how they will work together and the circumstances in which the principal regulator would refer issues to the commission. The appointment of a principal regulator does not diminish the commission's role in preserving public confidence in charities. If a principal regulator felt that there was a potential conflict of interest, it could seek the commission's advice on handling it. In addition, if the commission felt that a regulator had a conflict of interest, it would raise the issue with the regulator concerned and/or with the Cabinet Office.

Draft secondary legislation to make these changes will be laid before Parliament in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Future of Local Public Audit

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): On 13 August my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced plans to disband the Audit Commission, transfer the work of the Commission's in-house practice into the private sector, and refocus audit on helping local people hold councils and local public bodies to account for local spending decisions.

Since the announcement, my Department has worked closely with other Government Departments, the Audit Commission, the National Audit Office, the accountancy profession, local government and health sectors and other partners to design the new framework. I am now publishing, for initial consultation, our detailed proposals, which are a continuation of the Government's desire to increase the independence of local public bodies and their accountability to local people, while maintaining clear accountability, through Ministers, to Parliament. I have placed a copy of the consultation paper in the Library of the House.

Our proposals follow a set of design principles: localism and decentralisation; transparency; lower audit fees; and high standards of auditing. We have also been guided by the established principles of public audit, including the independence of public sector auditors from the organisations being audited and the wider scope of public audit.

The new framework mirrors that already in place for the audit of companies. If audit firms wish to become statutory local auditors, they will need to fulfil the rules and arrangements of the professional bodies that are designated as "Recognised Supervisory Bodies" by the Financial Reporting Council. They will therefore be mainly self-regulated.

The overarching issue is how to ensure levels of assurance are maintained in the new framework, without creating a complex bureaucratic system which places additional costs and burdens on councils. Strong accountability to Parliament through accounting officers will be retained, while decision making on auditor appointment's selection will be decentralised.

The Department of Health is considering the governance and accountability arrangements for the new health landscape and these will help determine the appropriate audit arrangements. The local public bodies referred to in the consultation paper do not, therefore, include local health bodies. However, I will be undertaking a further consultation on the arrangements for the audit of all local public bodies for which auditors are currently appointed by the Audit Commission, including health bodies, when I publish my draft Audit Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny. The Department of Health will publish a paper summarising its proposals at the same time.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Smart Metering

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I am pleased to inform the House that the Department of Energy and Climate Change, with Ofgem, is today publishing the response to the prospectus consultation on the smart metering implementation programme.

The Government's vision is for every home in Great Britain to have smart energy meters, giving people far better information about, and control over, their energy consumption than today. Businesses and public sector users should also have smart or advanced energy metering suited to their needs. The roll-out of smart meters will play an important role in Britain's transition to a low-carbon economy, and help us meet some of the long-term challenges we face in ensuring an affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply.

I have deposited copies of "Smart Metering Implementation Programme—Response to Prospectus Consultation—Overview Document" and supporting materials in the Libraries of both Houses.

The documents are also available on the Department of Energy and Climate Change website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

New Waterways Charity

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): On 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 4WS, I made a statement about inland waterways policy for England and Wales. I said that we were considering the appropriate civil society model for British Waterways, including the possible inclusion of the Environment Agency's navigations. On 14 October, the Government subsequently announced their intention to move British Waterways in England and Wales from being a public corporation to a New Waterways Charity—subject to parliamentary approval.

On February 28 I announced that I wished to take a phased approach to the delivery of my vision for a "national trust for the waterways". In phase 1, the liabilities and assets of British Waterways in England and Wales will transfer into the new charity, alongside an "endowment" consisting of the property portfolio owned by British Waterways in England and Wales. In phase 2, the EA navigations would transfer to the new charity, if sufficient funding can be found in the next spending review to enable the charity to take on the liabilities associated with them, and subject to the agreement of the charity's trustees.

Today, I am announcing the publication of the Government's consultation on the New Waterways Charity, which is available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult

This consultation document puts Government's commitment to localism at the centre of plans for the New Waterways Charity. Moving the powers, functions and assets of BW to civil society through the creation of a "national trust for the waterways" will allow stakeholders the opportunity to play a role in the governance of the waterways and to bring their expertise and passion to the operation of the organisation. The transfer will also promote greater engagement of local communities, leading to a range of enhanced public benefits including amenity, green travel to work, health and well-being and support to inner city and rural regeneration.

This proposal will also enable the waterways now owned and run by BW in England and Wales to be placed on a more financially sustainable long-term footing. The New Waterways Charity will have access to new sources of income from both commercial and private sources, including legacies, donations, increased borrowing and fundraising, as well as the chance to grow a volunteer base.

This consultation will consider the charity's scope, governance, the charitable constitution, sustainable business model, as well as the process for managing the transition. The consultation will close on 30 June 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Japan Earthquake (Government's Response)

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): I would like to update the House on the Government's response to the earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan on 11 March, and the consequent events at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant.

In doing so, I wish to express our profound sympathy to the Japanese Government and people for the appalling loss of life in the disaster, and to pay tribute to the courage and resilience of the Japanese people.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster we set up an emergency helpline for those concerned about British nationals in the affected areas. As of 27 March, we have received over 9000 calls to our helpline and can confirm that some 970 people reported to our missing persons hotline have been confirmed safe. There are, to date, no confirmed British fatalities. We continue to work to locate British nationals whom we have been unable to contact. There are now a small number about whom we remain very concerned. We are making every effort to track them down. It is important to stress that in these difficult circumstances, it is likely to take some time for the Japanese authorities formally to identify those who may have lost their lives or been injured and to notify next of kin.

Within 48 hours of the earthquake and tsunami, our ambassador to Japan led the first British team deployed to Sendai, one of the main cities affected. In the following days, we deployed over 60 specialist consular staff, drawn from across the FCO's global network, to north-east Japan to provide consular assistance and established a 24-hour consular response centre in Sendai. Our rapid deployment teams visited reception centres, hospitals and other locations to trace British nationals. They assisted more than 170 British nationals.

We reinforced our embassy in Tokyo, which worked around the clock on the crisis response including the provision of consular assistance to those in need. We stationed staff at both of Tokyo's airports, provided consular help at our consulate general in Osaka, and staffed a temporary desk at Kansai International airport. We continue to provide assistance from our embassy in Tokyo and our consulate in Osaka.

In light of the severity of the disaster, the Government decided to provide a higher level of consular assistance and support for those directly affected. This included help with transport out of the immediate danger zone, from Sendai to Tokyo, financial support for people who needed essentials such as food and clothing, telephone calls home and accommodation in Tokyo. This support was delivered by the FCO's consular teams on the ground in north-east Japan and Tokyo. We supplemented the available commercial capacity with charter flights to help those British nationals leave Japan who wished to do so.

The Government are also providing humanitarian assistance to supplement the efforts of the Japanese Government, and stand ready to do more. A 63-strong DFID-organised search and rescue team arrived in Japan on 13 March and made a significant contribution to the Japanese recovery operation in the affected area of Ofunato. The UK rescue team and medical advisers worked alongside US rescue workers and together cleared a large industrial district and residential area. The team returned safely on 19 March. In response to a Japanese request, we are providing 100 tonnes of bottled water to Mito City in Ibaraki Prefecture, one of the worst affected regions, which is hosting evacuees from Fukushima. We have also offered other forms of support to the Japanese Government including nuclear expertise. Through the Department for Energy and Climate Change the British nuclear industry has also provided radiological equipment to assist the Japanese as they work to bring the situation at the Fukushima nuclear plant under control.

Events at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant have been of serious concern. On Thursday 17 March, we advised British nationals currently in Tokyo and north-east Japan to consider leaving the area. We also joined the US in advising nationals to remain outside a broader 80 km zone around Fukushima. As a precautionary measure, we also began issuing iodine tablets to British nationals from locations in Sendai, Niigata and Tokyo. We are now distributing iodine tablets solely from our embassy in Tokyo. We have explained the circumstances in which people should take this medicine, who are the priority recipients (children and pregnant and breastfeeding women), and how we will advise people further on this if the situation changes.

The Government chief scientific advisor (CSA) and the Scientific Advisory Group in Emergencies (SAGE) have been engaged in detailed scenario planning for dealing with the ongoing events and we have contingency plans in place. The CSA has briefed the British community in Japan three times by telephone conference. Even in a worst case scenario, SAGE's advice is that the risks to human health beyond the exclusion zone set by the Japanese authorities could be managed by precautionary measures, in particular, staying indoors to avoid exposure.

We continue to update our travel advice to advise and inform British nationals in Japan as the situation evolves.

We in Britain will continue to do all we can to speed Japan's recovery from the earthquake and tsunami. Europe has made that same pledge. That is why the Government believe that one of our highest priorities must be to invite Japan to enter into a free trade agreement with the EU. At the European Council on 25 March the Prime Minister led calls for the EU to open negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with Japan, subject to Japanese movement on non-tariff barriers. An ETA could boost Japan's trade with the EU by €54 billion and EU trade by €43 billion and would send a strong signal of EU support for Japan.

HEALTH

Right to Provide Initiative

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am formally launching the Department's guidance to support the Government's new right to provide initiative and can announce that the Government will be investing at least £10 million through the Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) in 2011-12.

The new right to provide guidance "Making Quality Your Business" sets out the Department's guidelines to support public sector employees who are thinking about taking up the right to provide. The guide sets out a process for people working in NHS trusts who have the right to propose the development of a staff-led enterprise.

The right to provide programme will enable staff across health and social care to explore setting up staff-led mutuals to take over and run services. It builds on the successful right to request scheme for community health services, which will see almost 25,000 community NHS staff set up social enterprises to take over the services they provide. Right to provide extends the opportunities provided by right to request to others working in health and social care.

We are committed to the big society approach, making public services answerable to the people that use them. Right to provide devolves power to front line staff at a local level who know how things can be done better and gives them the opportunity to put their ideas into practice. Employee ownership, combined with strong staff engagement, has demonstrated that it can deliver successful enterprises in a commercial context; we believe it can do as well in public service.

The Department's Social Enterprise Investment Fund invests via loans and grants in new and existing social enterprises operating within health and social care. In the last year alone the fund has invested over £40 million in social enterprises in the health and social care sector, including support for community healthcare services through the transferring community services programme, and since its launch SEIF has supported over 450 social enterprises,

I am pleased to announce the investment of at least £10 million in the SEIF in 2011-12, which will demonstrate our continuing commitment to support the social enterprise sector and new organisations being created through the right to provide.

The Department's guidance has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

JUSTICE

Legal Services Board Chairman

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): Prior to the enactment of the Legal Services Act 2007 and many of the key provisions contained within it, this House was informed that David Edmonds had been appointed inaugural chairman of the Legal Services Board, established under the Act. The LSB is the over-arching regulator of legal service providers.

I am pleased to announce that following consultation with the Lord Chief Justice, David Edmonds has been reappointed in his role as chairman of the LSB for a second and final term of appointment to commence upon expiry of his current term on the 30 April 2011. His appointment will be for a fixed period of three years.

Bribery Act 2010

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Bribery Act 2010 is an important piece of legislation which seeks to tackle the scourge of bribery in international commerce.

Last year, as part of the preparation for implementation of the Act, we consulted on statutory guidance about procedures that commercial organisations can put in place to reduce their exposure to bribery and understand the Act. The guidance cannot of course change the substance of the Act, but the consultation did yield a large number of practical suggestions for its improvement, some of which I have taken up.

I am now confident that the guidance will prove a useful tool which will help prevent businesses from going to unnecessary lengths to comply with the law, and having consulted the Scottish Ministers, I am publishing it today under section 9 of the Act.

The guidance remains centred on six key principles and is intended to assist businesses of all sizes and in any sector or market. In particular it makes it clear that anti-bribery procedures should be proportionate to the risk of bribery and to the size and structure of an organisation. I am also publishing a much shorter guidance document which summarises the key principles of the guidance and which sets out essential messages about the Act. This is designed to be of assistance to smaller businesses in particular.

Both the section 9 guidance published as "The Bribery Act 2010 Guidance about procedures which relevant commercial organisations can put in place to prevent persons associated with them from bribing (section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010)" and the shorter guide published as "The Bribery Act 2010 Quick start guide" will be posted on the Ministry of Justice website today along with a Government response to the consultation. Copies will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In order to allow a period of three months for businesses to familiarise themselves with the guidance before the Act comes into force I intend to commence all the provisions of the Act that are not yet commenced on 1 July 2011.

The Government have also decided that a conviction of a commercial organisation under section 7 of the Act in respect of a failure to prevent bribery will attract discretionary rather than mandatory exclusion from public procurement under the UK's implementation of the EU Procurement Directive (Directive 2004/18). The relevant regulations will be amended to reflect this.

The implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 will ensure that the United Kingdom is at the forefront of the battle against bribery, allowing the country to tackle corruption without being burdensome to legitimate business.

Office of the Public Guardian

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) supports the Public Guardian in discharging his statutory duties under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The OPG business plan 2011-12 will be published today, The business plan will be available on the Ministry of Justice website and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The following are the significant impact indicators that have been set by the OPG for the year 2011-12.

The percentage of lasting and enduring powers of attorney being registered within 11 weeks.

Upon receipt of an application to register an EPA or LPA, the OPG will process the application and register the instrument within 11 weeks. This includes the statutory waiting period of six weeks during which people entitled to notice can lodge objections to the registration.

The number of case reviews of deputyships.

We will review a proportion of total case load in 2011-12. Case reviews help us to ensure that our supervision of deputies is operating effectively and in the best interests of the client.

The number of visits undertaken.

As the main means of face-to-face contact with customers, visits are a useful tool in assessing how a deputyship is operating in practice, and what support deputies and clients want to receive from the OPG. Visits also support compliance investigations.

The number of investigations concluded within three and six months.

When an investigation into the actions of an attorney or a deputy is commenced, timely conclusion is an important safeguard for the client and provides assurance to whistleblowers and families that we are acting on their concerns.

Cost-recovery percentage.

OPG operates on a full cost-recovery basis through the fees it charges for services. The full set of indicators is published within the business plan.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Oral Answers to Questions (Order)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): A revised "order of oral answers to questions" rota has been issued today, to cover the period when the House returns following the Easter recess.

It includes the following changes:

Topical questions have been introduced for the Cabinet Office and the Department for International Development. There will be a seven-minute slot for topical questions within their current total allocation of 30 minutes;

The amount of time allocated to the Deputy Prime Minister for questions has been increased to 40 minutes and, consequently, the length of time allocated for topical questions within this slot has been extended to 20 minutes. There will be an increase to 20 minutes for questions to the Attorney-General; and

As a consequence of the changes above, the days on which some questions are answered will move. Time allocated to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been reduced to 45 minutes.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): Subject to parliamentary approval, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2010-11 will be amended as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	Non-voted	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource	-216,000	0	5,725,476	445,810	6,171,286
Of which					
Administration *budget*	0	0	263,948	2,154	266,102
Capital	+216,000	0	6,666,423	728,127	7,394,550
Depreciation[1]	0	0	-802,365	-34,224	-836,589
Total		0	11,589,534	1,139,713	12,729,247

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The switch between resource and capital expenditure limits is to cover the cost of funding various rail schemes directly following a review of the Network Rail regulated asset base.

Agency Business Plans

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I am pleased to announce the publication today of the business plans for the Department for Transport's agencies—the Highways Agency (HA); the Driving Standards Agency (DSA); the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA); the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA).

The business plans set out the services each agency will deliver and any significant changes they plan to make; the resources they require; and a framework of measures by which their performance will be assessed.

The business plans will be available electronically on agency websites, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Semi-trailers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation on a proposal to allow a 2.05 metre increase in the length of semi-trailers and a maximum overall length for articulated heavy goods vehicles of 18.75 metres. The current maximum permitted length of an articulated heavy goods vehicle is 16.5 metres, and the maximum length of semi-trailer compatible with that overall limit is 13.6 metres. However, the current maximum permitted length for a rigid vehicle/drawbar trailer combination is already 18.75 metres, so the new proposed maximum length for articulated goods vehicles would not mean longer vehicles than are already circulating on Britain's roads.

The proposal is based on research findings and an impact assessment. It would be a relaxation of the current regulatory requirement on the road haulage industry. The Government accept the research findings which show it could have a significant potential net benefit to road haulage, as well as wider benefits in terms of reductions in congestion, local air pollution, carbon emissions, accidents, noise and infrastructure costs.

In June 2009, following earlier work on longer, heavier vehicles, the Department for Transport commissioned a detailed study into the feasibility and impacts of allowing the use of longer semi-trailers in GB, within the existing weight limit of 44 tonnes gross vehicle weight (GVW). The primary objective was to establish whether the introduction of these high-volume semi-trailers would deliver overall economic, environmental and societal benefits or disbenefits.

The study considered two main possibilities: increasing the length of a semi-trailer by up to 1 metre, to 14.6 metres in total, or increasing it by up to 2.05 metres. The latter option would increase the maximum permitted length of a semi-trailer to 15.65 metres, which would provide the same loading length as an existing rigid truck/drawbar trailer combination.

The study also considered the possibility of increasing the overall maximum permitted length of an articulated lorry to 18.75 metres. This would enable the development and use of tractor units with safer, more aerodynamic, frontal designs in addition to high-volume semi-trailers.

Based on the findings of the study, the Government believe there is a good case for permitting both an increase of up to 2.05 metres in the length of semi-trailers, and an increase in the overall permitted length of articulated vehicles to 18.75 metres. The existing weight limit of 44 tonnes GVW will remain in force. The consultation will enable the Department to develop a better understanding of the practical implications on road users generally of such an increase, and to identify proportionate mitigation measures to minimise the risk of unintended adverse consequences. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, the Government will consider permitting the operation of high-volume semi-trailers on a trial basis pending the introduction of the necessary changes to current regulations. This trial could be helpful to determine whether or not mitigation measures are required.

The consultation will run until 21 June 2011. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House. Further copies are available on the DFT website at www.dft.gov.uk. Depending on comments received and the Department's response, amendments may be made to regulations.

UK Aviation: Sustainable Framework

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): My Department's business plan confirmed the coalition Government's decision not to support new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. It also committed the Government to create a sustainable framework for aviation in the UK. This framework will replace the previous Administration's "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper which, while recognising aviation's economic benefits, failed to take sufficient account of climate change and the impact of aviation on local communities. Today I am publishing a scoping document which aims to define the debate as we develop a new long-term policy for UK aviation.

The Government are committed to returning the UK to sustainable economic growth. Aviation has an important role to play in delivering that growth. It makes a significant contribution to the UK economy and provides the international connectivity this country needs to thrive in the highly competitive global economy. This Government want to see aviation prosper. Aviation should be able to grow, but it must also play its part in delivering our environmental goals and protecting the quality of life of local communities.

The Government have made clear their commitment to meeting the challenge of climate change. Today, aviation contributes around 6% of UK CO_2 emissions but this share will increase as demand for air transport increases and other sectors of the economy reduce their emissions. The scoping document explores the most effective ways of addressing aviation's environmental impacts, both global and local, and seeks answers to questions on both issues.

The publication of this scoping document represents the start of a dialogue to give a wide range of stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the development of the policy framework. I expect the views expressed to be varied, and sometimes difficult to reconcile, but I want to move the aviation debate on from the polarisation which has characterised it in recent years, towards a consensus which balances the benefits that aviation brings with its impacts, both global and local.

We will publish a draft policy framework for public consultation in March 2012, and formally adopt the framework by March 2013.

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I will attend the first Transport Council of the Hungarian presidency, which will take place in Brussels on 31 March.

There will be a progress report and policy debate on the draft regulation amending Regulation 1406/2002, which established the European Maritime Safety Agency. The proposed amendment gives the agency several new, largely technical, tasks. In principle, the UK would be able to support the proposals, subject to the Commission delivering the additional funding required through a programme of reprioritisation of the current EU budget. It is also important for the UK to ensure that the extension of the agency's marine pollution response capabilities, to cover offshore oil and gas installations, is at the request of an affected state only, and that any involvement in the analysis of the safety of these installations explicitly excludes activities or requirements related to the exploration or exploitation of mineral resources by means of a well.

There will be two agenda items on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS).

There will be a progress report and the Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a decision on rules for access to the public regulated service (PRS) of the Galileo system. I believe the text to be tabled for general approach addresses the UK's earlier concerns covering costs, the framework for the manufacture of PRS receivers and associated material, and security standards.

There will be a policy debate and the Council will be asked to agree conclusions following the Commission's recent mid-term review of the European programmes. The Government are deeply disappointed and concerned that the full Galileo programme cannot now be delivered within the budget or timescale agreed in 2007. A robust assessment of all options is needed in light of this. The Government consider that the programme should respect the 2007 budget by reducing its level of ambition. The draft Council conclusions do not prejudice the forthcoming negotiations on the next multi-annual financial framework for the EU and urge the Commission to continue its cost analysis in order to identify options for cost reduction. They go on to underline the Council's wish that the cost analysis should result in cost savings. Accordingly, I expect to be able to agree to the conclusions.

The Council will be asked to adopt two decisions in the area of aviation external relations.

The first is a decision on the signature and provisional application of a memorandum of co-operation between the Community and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). I intend to abstain on this proposal as I consider that it is necessary to put down a marker that the UK is concerned about the principle of member state sovereignty in international organisations, and cautious about any proposals which could have the effect of enhancing the role of the EU at the expense of member states.

The second is a decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with Switzerland on an amendment to the existing air transport agreement. This will further remove barriers to market access on the basis of full application by Switzerland of the EU regulatory framework. The UK is supportive of the proposed negotiating mandate.

The Council may be asked to adopt a position on a decision concerning the accession of the EU to the protocol of 2002 to the Athens convention, relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea, 1974. A number of issues still need to be resolved. I will report to the House on this matter if it is considered at the Council.

I will be raising two issues under any other business. The first is the importance of ensuring that the forthcoming review of European air quality legislation takes full account of transport issues. The second is the need to make swift progress in delivering an enhanced regulatory regime for air cargo security.

If, as expected, the Commission's new White Paper on transport policy is published before the Council, the Commission will give a presentation on it under AOB. A debate on the White Paper will follow at a later Council, when member states have given full consideration to it. Also under AOB, the Commission will report on the follow-up to the volcanic ash crisis of 2010, looking at the wider scope of crisis management and EU methodology.

Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I wish to inform the House of a further development concerning the Government's legislation to regulate, ship-to-ship transfers of oil carried as cargo.

In July-September 2010, a review of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010, SI 2010 No. 1228, was conducted in view of concerns expressed about those regulations.

The Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, SI 2010 No. 1769, delayed the commencement provisions of SI 2010 No. 1228 for six months (ie. so that the earliest date any of its provisions would come into force was 1 April 2011), to ensure the provisions of SI 2010 No.1228 did not come into force before the completion of the review.

Amending regulations have been drafted, and work is in train to ensure that these amending regulations take account of representations made. However, consideration of the impact of these regulations on business will take time and is unlikely to be completed until May at the earliest.

Accordingly, I am laying before the House a Statutory Instrument which will delay the commencement provisions of SI 2010 No. 1228 for a further six months (until the next common commencement date, which is 1 October 2011), to ensure that the provisions of SI 2010 No. 1228 do not come into force on 1 April in their unamended form.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 31 March 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Pre-packaged Sales in Administrations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): Everyone who is affected by insolvency is entitled to have confidence that insolvency procedures are used fairly and that insolvency practitioners deliver the best possible outcome in what are often difficult and challenging circumstances. It is particularly important that suppliers, who often extend credit on unsecured terms, have confidence in the insolvency regime, as a lack of confidence is likely to restrict the availability of credit.

I am today announcing measures to improve transparency and confidence in pre-packaged (pre-pack) sales in administration. These will help ensure that in these cases as much is fairly returned to creditors as possible. These measures are in line with the policies of this Government to drive balanced and sustainable growth and will provide real benefits to business.

The merits of pre-pack sales have continued to be the subject of much debate. In response to the concerns raised, the previous Government launched a consultation exercise in March 2010. The responses make it clear that the greatest cause for concern is where the business and assets are sold back to the current management or a connected party—something that is often referred to as "phoenixism".

I recognise that pre-pack sales offer a flexible and speedy means of rescue and can be the best way of maximising returns for creditors. I do not wish to outlaw them. But they must be done fairly and reasonably. Where such sales are at undervalue, creditors get less than they should. Competitors who pay their debts in full also suffer. I want to make sure that creditors have a fair chance to have their voice heard. I also want to enable others to scrutinise such transactions after the event to ensure that deals being struck are fair in the circumstances.

In order to inject greater transparency into the process I intend to require administrators to give notice to creditors where they propose to sell a significant proportion of the assets of a company or its business to a connected party, in circumstances where there has been no open marketing of the assets. This will enable creditors to express concerns, which the administrator would need to consider, or to make a higher offer for the assets, and in cases where the circumstances justify it, apply to the court for injunctive relief. These options can be exercised before the sale has taken place, and therefore reflect concerns raised by stakeholders in their responses to the consultation.

The new requirements will apply not just to pre-packs but to any sales back to connected parties in an administration where there has been no open marketing of the assets.

Administrators already need to provide a detailed explanation of why a pre-pack sale was undertaken to creditors in compliance with professional standard Statement Of Insolvency Practice 16. These will in future need to be included in their administration proposals which are lodged at Companies House, making the information available to business as a whole, including, for example, credit reference agencies. This information may be of particular interest to suppliers and others considering doing business with the purchasing company. Administrators will also need to confirm that the sale price represents, in their view, best value for the creditors.

We are today also publishing a report on compliance with the Statement Of Insolvency Practice 16 (a professional standard setting out what information must be disclosed to creditors in pre-packs) during 2010. Overall levels of compliance have increased, showing that in the great majority of cases necessary statements are now being given (after the event) to creditors. However in a minority of cases the information is insufficient, and in these cases the concerns have been reported to the relevant authorising body. My officials will be liaising with the various bodies to ensure that there is a consistent approach taken to lack of compliance.

A copy of the consultation and summary of responses, together with the report on compliance with the Statement Of Insolvency Practice 16, can be found on The Insolvency Service's website at www.insolvency.gov.uk.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): The Minister of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), the Minister responsible for decentralisation, and I would like to inform the House that today we have written to the proposed Heart of the South-West local enterprise partnerships, covering Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay, inviting them to put their governance arrangements in place.

Local enterprise partnerships see a real power shift away from central Government and quangos and towards local communities and the local businesses who really understand the barriers to growth in their areas. This announcement brings the total number of partnerships so far invited to put their governance arrangements in place to 32. We will continue to work with other areas with a view to establishing further local enterprise partnerships across England.

TREASURY

Tax Consultation Framework and Updated Consultation Tracker

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Since the June Budget 2010 the Government have been developing a new approach to tax policy making, with consultation on policy and scrutiny of legislation as the cornerstones.

On 9 December 2010 the Tax Consultation Framework was published in draft for comment. Today the Government are publishing their response to the comments received including the finalised framework showing amendments made to the draft version.

Respondents have generally welcomed the framework as a positive step towards achieving the Government's aims of predictability, stability and simplicity for the tax system. Many of the suggestions have been incorporated into the finalised framework, while others will be addressed through the guidance and training provided to policy officials.

Responding to feedback from interested parties the Government are also publishing today their updated tax consultation tracker which is available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

The new version of the tracker includes specific anticipated launch dates wherever possible, to help representative groups and others manage their engagement with the Government on tax policy development.

DEFENCE

Government Profit Formula

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I announced to the House on 26 January 2011 that I had asked my noble Friend Lord Currie of Marylebone to undertake a fundamental review of the Government's single source pricing regulations, which include the Government Profit Formula (GPF) overseen by the review board for Government contracts. In the announcement I said that the review board has been asked to maintain the existing arrangements pending the outcome of Lord Currie's review (which is due to report in July 2011), and to complete their 2011 annual review of the GPF.

The Government have subsequently considered and accepted the review board's recommendations in their 2011 annual review, and all changes have been agreed with industry. This will reduce the profit and capital servicing allowances payable by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on new single source work that is placed after 1 April 2011. An agreed change to the GPF methodology will be of benefit to small and medium-sized enterprises; and agreed changes to Government accounting conventions setting out the treatment of costs in single source pricing will improve the MOD's negotiating position. The board's recommendations will be implemented in accordance with arrangements subsequently agreed with the industry side and recorded in an addendum to the published report. I will be placing a copy of the report in the Library of the House. The recommendations will be implemented for new single source work with effect from 1 April 2011.

Service Complaints Commissioner's Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I am pleased to lay before Parliament today the service complaints commissioner's third annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the service complaints system.

The commissioner continues to provide an independent oversight of the system and has been effective in beginning to drive improvements in the way in which we handle service complaints. She has added value and challenged the services' established ways of working.

The Ministry of Defence and the services have worked closely with the commissioner over the last three years to take practical steps to implement her recommendations for improving further the service complaints process. I and the service chiefs welcome the fact that this report acknowledges the progress that has been made, and the initiatives that have been implemented in a number of the areas since the first report was published in 2009.

While progress has been made, we recognise that we can improve further the manner in which we handle complaints.

I will provide a formal response to the commissioner once I and the services have had time to consider in full the findings of the report and the recommendations made.

UK Gulf Veterans (Mortality Data)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Today we have published the most recent figures on the mortality of veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict, covering the period 1 April 1991 to 31 December 2010. These figures have been published as a national statistic notice on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website.

The data for Gulf veterans are compared to that of a control group known as the "Era cohort" consisting of armed forces personnel of a similar profile in terms of age, gender, service, regular/reservists status and rank, who were in service on 1 January 1991 but were not deployed to the Gulf. As in the previous release, the "Era" group has been adjusted for a small difference in the age-profile of those aged 40 years and over, to ensure appropriate comparisons.

Key points to note in the data are:

There have been 1,193 deaths among the Gulf veterans and 1,216 in the age-adjusted Era comparison group.

The 1,193 deaths among Gulf veterans compare with approximately 1,998 deaths which would have been expected in a similar sized cohort taken from the general population of the UK with the same age and gender profile. This reflects the strong emphasis on fitness when recruiting and retaining service personnel.

These statistics continue to confirm that UK veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict do not suffer an excess of overall mortality compared with service personnel that did not deploy.

The full notice can be viewed at the following address: http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=1

A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Service Voting (Afghanistan)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The Government have put in place an initiative to support the participation of members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan who wish to vote in the referendum and elections on 5 May.

Following a dedicated registration push for those facing the most difficult of circumstances while serving in Afghanistan, service personnel will be able to use either a proxy or postal vote to take part in the polls.

Special forms produced by the Electoral Commission have been provided to relevant units, both for those going out to Afghanistan and those already there, to fill out to register to vote, and to choose how they wish to vote. The Ministry of Defence is undertaking targeted activity to encourage soldiers to register to vote before they leave the UK and each person arriving in Afghanistan will be briefed on the initiative.

Troops who fill out the forms and request a postal vote will be sent ballot forms via the British Forces Post Office (BFPO), utilising existing supply routes.

Once completed by the service voters, the ballot papers will be returned to the UK and distributed to returning officers using a network of BFPO, Royal Mail and local authority support put in place for the initiative.

Alongside this, counting officers and returning officers have been asked to prioritise the production of all postal ballot packs that are to be sent overseas. Those heading for BFPO addresses will be treated as a priority by BFPO to facilitate service personnel participation in the polls more widely.

This initiative builds on that put in place for the general election in 2010. It is right that we make it as easy as possible for our service personnel on operations in Afghanistan to take part in the referendum and elections on 5 May.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Expenditure Limits (Changes 2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I am announcing the following DEL budget switches, in accordance with the Treasury's consolidated budgeting guidance. Resource DEL will be decreased by £64,000,000 from £1,290,579,000 to £1,226,579,000 and Capital DEL will be increased by £64,000,000 from £1,987,933,000 to £2,051,933,000. The impact of these non-voted DEL switches on the Resource and Capital DEL is as set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*		*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-20,000	-44,000	434,820	791,759	1,226,579
Of which:					
Administration Budget	-	-	117,939	-	117,939
Capital DEL*	20,000	44,000	744,751	1,307,182	2,051,933
Less Depreciation**	-	-	-7,516	-4,389	-11,905
Total DEL	-	-	1,172,055	2,094,552	3,266,607

*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

**Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table above, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The transfer from voted Resource DEL to Capital DEL of £20,000,000 relates to the cost of keeping open the Warm Front scheme for two weeks longer than budgeted during a period of extreme bad weather.

The transfer from non-voted Resource DEL to Capital DEL of £44,000,000 is in respect of work by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority at the Sellafield site, as a result of a final assessment of the split of the cost of decommissioning activities on the site between capital and resource expenditure in accordance with the ONS/ESA95 agreed definitions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB Reactor Identification

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I wish to inform the House that I have received evidence suggesting that a very small minority of farmers in the south-west and midlands have been illegally swapping cattle eartags to retain TB test-positive animals in their herds and sending other less productive animals to slaughter in their place. The suspected fraudulent activity is now subject to formal investigations.

If this kind of practice is taking place it is totally unacceptable. We are taking immediate action to prevent activity of this kind happening in future, and any farmer who tries to cheat the system should know that they will be identified and prosecuted. I should stress that the health risks to consumers from this suspected fraud are very low.

Anyone who retains TB test-positive cattle increases the risk of disease spread within their herd, to their neighbours' herds, and to wildlife. We are moving quickly to introduce new measures to prevent this occurring in future.

In particular, from mid-April DNA tags will be applied immediately to cattle that test positive for TB. This quick action is only possible because of the commitment and support of the veterinary profession, for which I am grateful. Animal Health will then cross-check on a random sample basis and, where there is any suspicion of eartag tampering, the DNA of TB test-positive animals against the DNA of animals sent to slaughter.

I would emphasise that the vast majority of cattle farmers fully comply with TB control measures, but their considerable and tireless efforts to help us control this terrible disease risk being undermined by an irresponsible minority. I am confident that our quick and decisive action, including the DNA tagging of TB reactors, will help protect the interests of all cattle farmers.

Departmental Expenditure Limit (Budget Control Totals)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I wish to announce that for 2010-11 DEFRA will switch £9 million available Resource DEL budget to cover a forecast deficit against its Capital DEL control total, in accordance with HM Treasury's consolidated budgetary guidance. Although the financial outturn for the year is not final, the current assessment of the required switch is £9 million. The movement in spend from Resource DEL to Capital DEL is in respect of flood defences where the exact nature and classification of the expenditure is determined by the Environment Agency, as they undertake the work.

£'000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-	-9,000	3,695,767	-1,271,951	2,423,816
Of which:					
Administration Budget	-	-	*282.088*	-	*282.088*
Capital DEL*	-	9,000	122,977	463,887	586,864
Less Depreciation**	-	-	-100,441	-109,235	-209,676
Total DEL	-	-	3,718,303	-917,299	2,801,004

*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

**Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): In my statement of 4 March, *Official Report*, column 47-48WS, I updated the House on the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) progress in both addressing its daunting legacy of errors in relation to the single payment scheme (SPS) and ensuring that accurate payments under the SPS 2010 reached farmers as soon as possible. In that statement I explained I was considering additional measures to speed the flow of SPS 2010 payments and, following discussions in the RPA oversight board, I can now report on the decisions that have been reached.

Since 4 March, RPA has continued to make SPS 2010 payments as claims are validated, and to undertake further work to identify those that are ineligible and not, therefore, due a payment for this year. As a result, the agency calculates that there are now in the region of 6,300 eligible claims remaining to be paid, with a combined value of around £215 million. The frustrations felt by these farmers have been made very clear to me, both directly and through farmers' representative bodies. They want both the remaining sums paid as soon as possible and a line to be drawn under the legacy issues so uncertainty over past years is removed and greater confidence is provided that subsequent scheme year payments will not be affected. The oversight board shares these aims and has been looking very closely at how the former can be achieved without significantly impacting on the latter.

Against that background, the oversight board has now approved two decisions which, between them, should ensure that less than 1% of the monetary value of SPS 2010 payments remains outstanding at the end of the regulatory payment window which closes on the 30 June. This would be in line with, or would better, performance in previous years and would ensure the EU requirement to make 95.238% of payments by 30 June is met, thus avoiding late payment penalties.

The first decision is that, after rigorous testing on a sample to ensure accuracy of the process, fully validated manual payments will be made to approximately 2,000 farmers under the 2010 scheme who would otherwise not be paid until after the payment window. These payments will be made over the next two months and take account of known entitlement corrections that have yet to be fully processed on the agency's systems. Should there be any additional changes identified once payment has been made, the farmers concerned will be informed.

The second decision relates to those remaining SPS 2010 payments where there are outstanding queries on earlier scheme years. Where the SPS 2010 claim has been fully validated, payment for that scheme year will now be made. Should any changes be identified for earlier scheme year payments in due course, the farmers concerned will be informed. RPA plans to complete the work required before the opening of the SPS 2011 payment window on 1 December.

The net result of these decisions is that the flow of remaining SPS 2010 payments will now increase. The oversight board did additionally consider requests from various sectors of the industry to make partial payments. However, RPA's analysis suggests that this would not significantly increase the speed at which remaining claims are paid to farmers, but would add disproportionately to the backlog of corrective work required and introduce additional risks of EU fines. Consequently, it was agreed that the agency should not make partial payments.

In order that all farmers with payments outstanding at the end of March understand how these decisions might affect them, RPA will be writing to each of those concerned next week to explain what issues remain on their claims and the likely month of payment.

Alongside this work, RPA will continue to review the remaining backlog of potential error cases that need to be reviewed. Corrective work undertaken to date, combined with earlier decisions by the oversight board on ensuring entitlements were regularised wherever legally possible, has made a real impact to date. The board will be monitoring these efforts closely to ensure a line is finally drawn under all the legacy data issues over the coming year.

I will continue to keep the House informed on the agency's progress.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

"Human Rights and Democracy: The 2010 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report"

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): "Human Rights and Democracy: The 2010 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report" will be published today. The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010, although some key events in early 2011 have also been included. It highlights what the Government are doing to promote our values around the world, the serious concerns we have, and the important human rights progress being made.

The report was laid before Parliament on 30 March. Copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office in the House of Lords. The report will be available online at: www.fco.gov.uk/hrdreport. I commend the report to the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Partnerships (Religious Premises)

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The Government are committed to advancing equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people and to ensuring freedom of religion or belief for all people. To further both of these aims, the Government are committed to removing the legal barrier to civil partnerships being registered on the religious premises of those faith groups who choose to allow this to happen. This will be done by implementing section 202 of the Equality Act 2010. This is a permissive measure; section 202 makes it clear that there will be no obligation on faith groups to host civil partnerships.

Today we are publishing a consultation document setting out proposals to implement section 202. The proposals set out in the consultation document are designed to respect the wishes of faith groups whether they wish to host civil partnership registrations or not, and to keep burdens on local authorities to a minimum. To this end we are proposing a two-stage process. First, faith groups must agree whether to permit civil partnership registrations on their premises to enable individual religious premises to apply to host them. Secondly, individual religious premises must obtain approval from the local authority for their area by following a process similar to that for venues such as hotels where civil marriages and partnership registrations are held now. The consultation will run until 23 June.

This consultation document deals only with this specific measure and does not set out proposals for any other changes to civil partnerships or any changes to marriage. However, in our work on civil partnerships we have identified a desire from many to move towards equal civil marriage and partnerships, and will be consulting separately on how legislation can develop, working with all those who have an interest in this area.

Copies of the consultation document are being placed in the House Library and will also be available from the Vote Office.

Remuneration and Conditions of Service for Police Officers and Staff

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): On 8 March I issued a written statement to the House—*Official Report*, column 59WS—announcing that Tom Winsor had published the first report of his review of remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff in England and Wales.

We have the best police force in the world, but I said when the review was launched, it is vital that we have a modern and flexible service to meet the demands placed on it. The Government recognise and value the professionalism of the police and have made clear their commitment to supporting and maximising front line services to the public. Police officers and staff should be rewarded fairly and reasonably for what they do. They deserve to have pay and work force arrangements that both recognise the vital role they play in fighting crime and keeping the public safe and enable them to deliver effectively for the public.

The Government have also been clear that action is needed to tackle the deficit responsibly to ensure that the taxpayer gets a fair deal from all parts of the public sector. The police service has its part to play, and in an organisation like the police, where pay is 80% of police revenue expenditure, there is no question that pay restraint and pay reform must form part of the package. In this context, it is more important than ever that the police leadership has the flexibility to manage forces and protect the front line services.

The review has an important role in enabling the police service to do this. Tom Winsor was asked to look at how remuneration arrangements and conditions of service for police officers and staff can best support and enable the police service to serve the public and provide value for money for the public taxpayer.

In particular, the terms of reference asked for recommendations on how to:

use remuneration and conditions of service to maximise officer and staff deployment to front line roles where their powers and skills are required;

provide remuneration and conditions of service that are fair to and reasonable for both the public taxpayer and police officers and staff;

enable modern management practices in line with practices elsewhere in the public sector and the wider economy.

In recognition of the urgency of these matters, the review was asked to report in two stages: the first on short-term improvements and a second report on longer-term reforms.

The Government have now had the opportunity to consider the review's first report. It sets out the following broad principles:

Fairness is an essential part of any new system of pay and conditions.

The Office of Constable is the bedrock of British policing.

The demands of policing should be given full and proper weight.

People should be paid for what they do, the skills they have and are applying in their work, and the weights of the jobs they do.

People should be paid for how well they work.

A single police service—distinctions in pay and other conditions of service between police officers and staff should be objectively justified.

Arrangements should be simple to implement and administer.

Phased introduction of reform.

We welcome these principles, and believe that they provide a framework for fair and sustainable arrangements for remuneration and conditions of service.

The review also sets out a package of specific recommendations for police officers' and staff remuneration and conditions of service, based on these guiding principles. I have consulted the Independent Chair of the Police Negotiating Board and Police Advisory Board for England and Wales and I will direct those bodies to consider the proposals that are within their respective remits for police officers in England and Wales as a matter of urgency. I will also be writing to the Association of Police Authorities and the Police Staff Council to recommend that they consider the report's recommendations in respect of police staff in England and Wales.

Changes in Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules that will bring about the first of the changes to the student visa system, which I announced on 22 March.

The changes will take effect on 21 April and will introduce an interim limit on those sponsors who do not currently meet the new accreditation criteria and will limit the number of students they can sponsor. These rule changes also implement the changes to the

English language requirement so that those coming to study at degree level will have to speak English at an upper-intermediate level. Others will have to speak English at an intermediate level. We are also publishing a statement of intent on the UK Border Agency website which sets out the detail of the proposed policy changes to tier 4 and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House Library.

This statement of changes also includes some changes to the tier 4 rules to clarify some existing rules and to bring some requirements into the rules.

We are also making some minor amendments to rules laid on 16 March, relating to prospective entrepreneurs and tier 2 intra-company transfers. We are also correcting omissions from the new criminality requirements at settlement and to clarify the application of the new settlement rules for highly skilled migrant programme participants.

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am announcing today the launch of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service as an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. It brings together Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service into one integrated agency providing support to the judiciary in the administration of justice in courts and tribunals.

The agency is responsible for the administration of the criminal, civil and family courts and tribunals in England and Wales and non-devolved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It provides for a fair, efficient and effective justice system delivered by an independent judiciary.

I believe that operating as a single organisation will provide the platform to improve accessibility, drive up quality and provide a better environment for service users. Integration will enable those who need to use the agency's services to do so in a simple and straightforward way, using a single point of access. Bringing corporate functions together will remove duplication in management functions and enable efficiencies which do not impact on front line services. Integration will also enable more efficient use of the combined estate, using facilities flexibly across jurisdictions.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service uniquely operates on the basis of a partnership between the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice and the Senior President of Tribunals as set out in Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Framework Document. I have laid this document before Parliament today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Dissolution of the Independent Monitoring Commission and Independent International Commission on Decommissioning

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): We have previously announced that the work of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) and Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) has been nearing completion. We have agreed with the IMC and IICD that the time is now right to bring the commissions to a close and the necessary arrangements have been put in place to wind down both commissions. They will be dissolved on 31 March.

As requested by the UK and Irish Governments, the IMC and IICD have provided both Governments with reports on each commission's experience and lessons learned. Due to the pre-election period, the reports will be published after the Assembly elections in May on a date to be agreed by both Governments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IMC and IICD commissioners and commission staff who have played a crucial part in supporting and enabling historic changes over the years, assisting in Northern Ireland's transition to a peaceful, stable and inclusive society.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Allocations

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce that the gross discretionary Social Fund Budget for 2011-12 will be £732 million.

With the net funding available, I have been able to allocate a gross national Social Fund Loans Budget of £590 million and a national Community Care Grants Budget of £141 million from 1 April 2011.

To provide help to Jobcentre Plus budgets facing unexpected and unplanned expenditure I will retain centrally £1 million as a contingency reserve.

I will allocate a gross national Social Fund Loans Budget in line with the provisions in the Welfare Reform Act 2007. The aim is to control and manage the national allocation whilst providing consistency of outcomes for budgeting loan applicants wherever they live. All loans budget expenditure will be made from the gross national loans budget of £590 million.

The Community Care Grant annual allocations to social fund budget areas are provisional and will be subject to in year adjustment once the current review of the funding allocation methodology has been completed. The overall national budget will remain at £141 million. The purpose of the review is to determine a fairer distribution of resources between areas and to move to the optimal funding position for the new locally based service from 2013.

Details of individual Community Care Grant allocations will be placed in the House Libraries.

Background note about the discretionary Social Fund Budget

The discretionary social fund budget is cash limited. Funding for Community Care Grants is allocated to each budget area for management by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund Benefit Delivery Centres on 1 April each year. The gross discretionary social fund budget allocated for 2011-12 is £732 million. This is made up of:

New money (net AME)	£178.2m
Forecast loan recovery	£553.8m

This is to be allocated as follows:

Loans	£ 590m
Grants	£141m
Contingency reserve	1m

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 1 April 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Communities Policy Unit

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): In June 2010, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that DEFRA Ministers would lead rural policy from within the Department supported by a strengthened Rural Communities Policy Unit and that the Commission for Rural Communities would therefore be abolished. I am pleased to report that, as of 1 April 2011, the first phase of this transition will be complete. The new DEFRA Rural Communities Policy Unit is now fully staffed and operational. Meanwhile, the Commission for Rural Communities has implemented a streamlined operating model which will enable it to continue to fulfil its statutory functions at a significantly reduced cost pending abolition.

The Rural Communities Policy Unit

The Government are committed to ensuring their policies and programmes properly take account of the needs and the potential of rural residents, businesses and communities. DEFRA'S ministerial team will act decisively to champion rural issues across Government. We are now supported in this by an enhanced Rural Communities Policy Unit (RCPU) which will operate as a centre of rural expertise, supporting and co-ordinating activity within and beyond DEFRA. The RCPU will play an important role in helping all Government Departments to ensure that their policies are effectively "rural proofed" before decisions are made.

Building upon the Department's existing rural policy team, we have drawn in staff from the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) and from other parts of Government to create the new unit. The RCPU's immediate objectives are:

> To identify issues of critical importance to rural communities and then support, inform and influence the development and implementation of relevant Government policy so as to achieve fair, practical and affordable outcomes for rural residents, businesses and communities;
>
> To develop open and collaborative approaches to gathering information, evidence and potential solutions, working closely with the wide range of organisations which support and represent rural communities.

The RCPU will maintain and build upon the strong evidence base developed by both DEFRA and the CRC. This evidence will inform both the unit's priorities and its policy-influencing function and will also be made available to the public via the DEFRA website. Much of the activity which helps rural communities to thrive takes place at a remove from central Government, often undertaken directly by people within the communities themselves. It is our intention that the RCPU's evidence will promote the Government's drive to decentralisation by supporting bodies operating sub-nationally better to understand and take proper account of rural needs and opportunities.

The Commission for Rural Communities

From 1 April 2011, the CRC's chairman, Dr Stuart Burgess, and commissioners will act collectively and individually to fulfil their statutory functions rather than operating as an oversight board for a much larger organisation. They will be supported by a small team, with back office functions such as HR, finance and IT being provided by DEFRA. Pending abolition, the commission will continue to act as critical friend to DEFRA, with a work programme complementary to that of the RCPU. Further details of the commission's plans for 2010-11 will be available from 1 April at www.defra.gov.uk/crc

It is no small achievement to have made the transition to these new rural policy delivery arrangements within nine months. I am grateful to all those in DEFRA, the CRC and beyond who have enabled us to get to this point.

HEALTH

Adult Autism Strategy

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I am announcing the Government's publication tomorrow of "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: Evaluating Progress"—a set of key outcomes and service ambitions to secure implementation of the adult autism strategy. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

"Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: Evaluating Progress" has been produced to deliver against a commitment made in the first-year delivery plan to produce a self-assessment template for localities to check progress on implementing the goals set out in the adult autism strategy.

The document details a set of seven key outcomes and three service ambitions which provide a consistent and tangible way to assess progress in each area. Over time, they will evolve into a jointly owned set of outcomes that all parties—local partners, adults with autism, central Government and others—can use to understand progress, and become a focal point for developing improved services.

The document reflects the Government's ambitions for local autonomy, where precise top-down targets are replaced by desired outcomes, where implementation and investment is determined by local priorities—as agreed by local communities through activities such as the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)—and where central Government's role is about facilitation rather than direction.

This means a new approach to evaluating progress on the autism strategy, with a focus on identifying the outcomes which will enable local and national assessment of whether the lives of adults with autism are improving. The Government will take the lead in supporting local partners to deliver change

In developing "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: Evaluating Progress", we have worked closely with partners such as the Care Quality Commission, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the NHS Confederation and voluntary and independent groups, to select the most relevant outcomes.

The document also includes a generic template for estimating local area need for use when commissioning services for people with autism. This will help provide a source of future information locally on progress. The learning disability public health observatory will collate data using the template by publishing information from each locality.

The development and launch of the autism strategy led to a range of activities at local and national level to improve services for adults with autism. To help continue that momentum the self-assessment template will enable local areas to assess their own progress towards the goals set in the strategy, and towards implementing the statutory guidance.

The Department has also funded a series of online training resources and booklets to increase awareness and understanding of autism across all public services. Working with the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Social Care Institute for Excellence, the British Psychological Society, the Royal College of General Practitioners, Healthtalkonline, Skills for Health, and Skills for Care, we have produced a range of quality materials to enable front-line staff to recognise better, and thus respond more effectively to, the needs of adults with autism.

Reciprocal Health Agreement (United Kingdom and Jersey)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): Following discussions between the Department of Health, the States of Jersey Government and the devolved Administrations, a new reciprocal health agreement between the United Kingdom and Jersey will come into effect from 1 April 2011.

The new agreement will ensure that UK residents visiting Jersey will receive free, state-provided immediately necessary treatment while on a temporary visit to Jersey, as will Jersey residents visiting the UK. No public money will change hands under the agreement, which is a common feature of all of the United Kingdom's non-European economic area reciprocal health arrangements

The new agreement will provide certainty for travellers and represents a mutually beneficial agreement for both the United Kingdom and Jersey.

PRIME MINISTER

Machinery of Government Changes

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I can announce the following changes to the machinery of government:

The National Fraud Authority, an Executive agency of the Attorney-General's Office, will transfer to the Home Office.

Responsibility for issuing British passports overseas will transfer from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Responsibility for the Galileo programme will transfer from the Secretary of State for Transport to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; responsibility for the space component of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security Programme will transfer from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; and UK input to both programmes will be led by the UK Space Agency, bringing together all parts of the Government's policy on civil space.

The National School of Government will be brought into the Cabinet Office and will therefore cease to be a separate non-ministerial department.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Programme (Preferred Bidders)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): This morning, the Government took another major step forward in their delivery of the most sweeping welfare reforms for 60 years, announcing preferred bidders for 40 Work programme contracts.

Competition for contracts was intense, with 177 bids submitted by 30 organisations, and this has led to a diverse and high-quality list of preferred bidders.

We have also been very encouraged by preferred bidders' response to the emphasis we placed on the involvement of voluntary, local and community organisations in Work programme delivery. There is impressive voluntary sector involvement with almost 300 voluntary sector organisations involved in delivery of the Work programme as sub-contractors, and two voluntary sector organisations and one public sector organisation as prime contractors. Voluntary sector organisations make up a substantial proportion of prime contractors' supply chains, in some cases over 50%, representing an investment of £95 million in the voluntary and community sector.

We have chosen at least two providers to deliver in each of the 11 contract package areas. Their relative performance will determine their future share of the welfare-to-work market in each contract area, and we expect that this ongoing competition will continue to drive quality and performance in live running.

The new payment-by-results system will deliver better value for money by paying providers from additional benefit savings they create, and providers will be paid more for helping those with the greatest needs, creating better incentives to deliver truly tailored support for everyone.

The announcement of preferred bidders today keeps us on track for successful delivery of the Work programme in June, delivering innovative back-to-work support for around 2.4 million people.

I will place a document containing the list of preferred bidders in the Library today.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 4 April 2011

TREASURY

Corporate Capital Gains Degrouping Charges (Simplification)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): I am announcing today the Government's intention to present to Parliament a proposed legislative change to schedule 10 to the Finance Bill. This schedule simplifies the calculation of chargeable gains degrouping charges for companies. The change we are proposing, which will have effect from 1 April 2011, will allow companies the option to apply the new degrouping charge provisions to transactions occurring from 1 April 2011 rather than only after the passing of the Finance Act.

A degrouping charge is intended to prevent loss of tax on gains that arise on the disposal of assets, where a company owning the asset is sold. This can be used for tax avoidance. Companies identified it as one of the most burdensome tax rules that affect them when they are making an acquisition or disposal, or restructuring.

The new provisions in schedule 10 provide greater certainty to companies planning acquisitions and disposals. The changes will promote growth in the economy by removing some tax barriers to corporate transactions, reducing the costs of restructuring a business and simplifying the process.

The changes made by schedule 10 have already been welcomed by many businesses. I am announcing this new change in response to recent representations, to ensure that the benefits of the changes we are making are available to those groups that are currently in the process of a reconstruction, or considering making an acquisition or disposal.

HM Revenue and Customs will publish a technical note on its website setting out further detail, including the draft legislative amendments.

Office for Budget Responsibility

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): The provisions of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 which establish the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) have been brought into force today. The OBR is now established on a permanent, statutory footing.

The Treasury has also published and laid before Parliament the charter for budget responsibility. This charter addresses the comments made by Members during the passage of the Act. The charter must be approved by the House of Commons before it is brought into force. A debate will be scheduled shortly.

Alongside the charter, the Treasury and the OBR are publishing the OBR's framework document and memorandum of understanding. The framework document sets out the broad governance and management framework within which the OBR will operate. The memorandum of understanding establishes a transparent framework for co-operation between the OBR, the Treasury and other parts of Government which the OBR will need to work closely with to perform its forecasting and analytical duties.

Each document has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. They are also available on both the Treasury's and OBR's websites. Copies of the charter are available in the Vote Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

New Homes Bonus Final Allocations (Year 1)

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today, I am announcing the final allocations for local authorities in England for the new homes bonus year 1 funding. This announcement follows my written statement of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 93-95WS, about the final design of the new homes bonus. The new homes bonus will fulfil the Government's coalition agreement commitment to provide local authorities with real incentives to deliver housing growth.

Local authorities had until 10 March to make data representations on their provisional grant allocations. We received 27 representations of which 16 were revisions to the 2009 and 2010 council tax base statistics, three were banding corrections between 2009 and 2010 and eight were about other matters. The 2010 council tax base statistics were released as official statistics on 31 March and we have used the official statistics to calculate the final allocations. We have worked closely with authorities to resolve other data issues.

New homes bonus is a key part of our ambition, set out in the local growth White Paper, to create a fairer and more balanced economy through encouraging growth. The role of local areas in this rebalancing of growth is crucial—they are best placed to understand the drivers of, and barriers to, local growth and should lead their own development to release their economic potential. In so doing they should be able to benefit directly from the development they bring forward.

The new homes bonus is designed to address the disincentive within the local government finance system for local areas to welcome growth. Until now, increased housing in communities has meant increased strain on public services and reduced amenities. The new homes bonus will remove this disincentive by providing local authorities with the means to mitigate the strain the increased population causes. In addition, in doing so, the new homes bonus should help engender a more positive attitude to growth, and create an environment in which new housing is more readily accepted.

The new homes bonus scheme will be a powerful, simple and transparent incentive. Commencing in April 2011, the bonus will match fund the additional council tax potential from increases in effective housing stock, with an additional amount for affordable homes, for the following six years. It will ensure that the economic benefits of housing growth are more visible to the local authorities and communities where growth takes place.

A full list of the final allocations is being placed in the Library of the House. Further information on the final scheme design can also be found at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

We will continue to provide advice on the scheme via the Newhomesbonus@communities.gsi.gov.uk email account.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Redundancy Process

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The Government announced in the strategic defence and security review last October that as part of moving to Future Force 2020 and due to the economic situation we have inherited, we would reduce the size of the Army by 7,000 personnel, and both the Navy and RAF by 5,000 personnel. We also made clear that regrettably an element of these reductions would need to be made through a redundancy process.

I set out in my statement of 1 March 2011 the process and timetable the armed forces redundancy scheme would follow. The RAF informed their personnel of the areas in which they would look to make reductions in tranche one on the same day. In accordance with the timetable set out in the 1 March statement the Army and Navy have today published to their personnel the equivalent information. In the first stage the Army are looking to reduce by around 1,000 personnel, and the Navy by 1,600. Like the RAF, individuals will not be selected for redundancy by the Army and Navy until 1 September 2011 and 30 September 2011 respectively.

While it is too early to know who will be selected for redundancy, the principles set out in the 1 March statement will be followed. First, both services will ask for volunteers although all personnel in the relevant areas will be considered. Secondly, the redundancy scheme will not impact adversely on the current operations in Afghanistan and Libya, where our armed forces are fighting so bravely on this country's behalf. No-one who is preparing for combat operations, deployed on combat operations where they will receive the operational allowance or on post-operational tour leave on the day redundancy notices are issued will be made redundant unless they have volunteered.

The Government would rather not have had to reduce the size of the armed forces but the size of the fiscal deficit inherited left little choice. As we continue with the redundancy process we will ensure we retain the capability our armed forces require to be as effective in the future.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

UK Oil and Gas (Regulation)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): In his statement to the House on 14 June 2010 on the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change indicated his intention to review our regulatory procedures once detailed analysis of the factors that caused the incident were available. Subsequently in their evidence to the Committee on Energy and Climate Change's inquiry into deepwater drilling, my Department, the Health and Safety Executive and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency confirmed that the review would involve external experts to ensure that an independent perspective was brought to bear on this work. I am pleased to announce today the composition of the panel which has been established to review the UK's oil and gas offshore regulatory regime.

The panel will be chaired by Geoffrey Maitland, Professor of Energy Engineering at Imperial College. He will be joined on the panel by two further independent members; Professor John Shepherd of the National Oceanography Centre at the University of Southampton, and Mr Mick Temple, who holds a range of positions and has extensive oil industry experience. Mr Jim Campbell (Director of Energy Development, DECC), Mr Kevin Myers (Deputy Chief Executive Health and Safety Executive), and Mr Philip Naylor (Director of Maritime Services, Maritime and Coastguard Agency) will represent the three regulatory bodies involved. The panel's first formal meeting will take place on 7 April 2011. It will report later this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Monthly Progress Report February 2011

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the fourth progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of February.

The international security assistance force (ISAF) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) continue to make steady progress on extending security. ISAF commanders are confident that ISAF and Afghan military operations over the winter have significantly reduced insurgent capability, but the rising numbers of weapons found indicate clearly that the insurgents have every intention of stepping up their attacks. Recruitment of Afghan army and police remains ahead of target, but the standard of Afghan national police leadership needs to be improved and the rate of turnover of recruits needs to be reduced. The Afghan Parliament's election of a new Speaker, after a protracted process, is an encouraging step forward, but further appointments need to be confirmed before the Parliament can play a full role in the legislative process. Stronger links are beginning to develop between central and local government in Helmand, through governance, rule of law and economic development programmes and better access to Government -provided services including transport. This is essential to help the Afghan Government deliver basic services and win the support of the population. Concern remains over a lack of progress in certain areas, for example, women's rights. Through the High Peace Council the Afghan Government are increasing their dialogue with their neighbours to promote regional engagement in the wider political process. This is an encouraging step forward towards building confidence across the region, which is clearly a long-term challenge.

As I place this report, the Government of Afghanistan have announced that the following provinces and districts will begin the process of transition to Afghan security responsibility: Kabul (excluding Sorobi district); Panjsher province; central Bamyan province; Western Herat; Lashkar Gah; Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh province); Mehtarlam (Laghman province). Further details will be included in the progress report for March.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

FCO Services (Performance Targets 2011-12)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the FCO. I have set the following performance targets for 2011-12:

> An in-year surplus before interest and tax producing a net margin of between 1% and 5%.
>
> A return on capital employed of at least 3.5% (weighted average).
>
> Finance, HR, ICT and procurement functions to sit within or above the second quartile in the Office for Efficiency and Performance benchmarking survey.
>
> A utilisation rate for revenue earning staff of between 75%-80%.
>
> Customer satisfaction rating to be within or above the second quartile in the customer satisfaction index, as produced by the Institute of Customer Service.

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its annual report for 2011-12.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I am publishing today the "Government's response to the consultation on disability living allowance reform" (Cm 8051).

Disability living allowance (DLA) has not been fundamentally changed or updated since it was introduced, and no longer provides the framework for supporting disabled people that is needed in the 21st century. Over the last 18 years, DLA has failed to keep pace with the changing approach to disability in society. As it stands, DLA is complex to apply for and to administer, lacks consistency in the way it supports disabled people with similar needs, and has no systematic process for checking the ongoing accuracy of awards.

This is why we believe that now is the time to reform DLA by replacing it with a new benefit for working-age disabled people—personal independence payment. This new benefit will better reflect the desire from disabled people to live independent lives, not labelling individuals by a health condition or impairment but considering its impact on their everyday lives.

The importance of personal independence payment means that spending must remain sustainable for the future. Currently 3.2 million people receive DLA, an increase of around 30% in the past eight years. The announced budget for working-age spend by 2015-16 will bring that expenditure back to 2009-10 levels.

The Government response outlines the feedback received, from both individuals and organisations, and provides further information regarding the replacement of DLA and the introduction of personal independence payment for working-age people from 2013-14.

Copies of the Government's response will be available in the Vote Office, and will be available shortly at: www.dwp.gov.uk/dla-reform.

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Pension Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am today publishing the consultation document, "A State Pension for the 21st century" (Cm 8053), which looks at whether the existing pensions system is suitable for meeting the challenges of the future. We want to create a simple, decent state pension, that is easy to understand and efficient to administer, which gives people more clarity and certainty about what they will get from the state, thereby giving them a firm foundation for decisions about saving to fund their retirement.

A copy of the consultation document will be available on the Department's website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/state-pension-21st-century, later today. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office later today.

We look forward to hearing the views of the many groups and individuals who will have an interest.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 5 April 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Intellectual Property Office (Public Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement.

The Intellectual Property Office promotes innovation by providing a clear, accessible and widely understood IP system, which enables the economy and society to benefit from knowledge and ideas.

I have set the Intellectual Property Office the following targets for 2010-11:

Policy

Proposals for enhanced co-operation on the EU patent and court are adopted in line with UK objectives.

Rights granting

Efficiently deliver high-quality patents, so that:

90% of patent search reports are issued within four months of request; and

all outstanding patent examinations older than 42 months are cleared by the end of March 2012.

Efficiently deliver high-quality trade marks and registered designs, so that:

applications for trade marks, for which we have not raised any issues and no opposition has been filed, are registered within four months in 85% of cases, within five months in 90% of cases, and within six months In 95% of cases;

the correct decision on registration is made in at least 99% of trade mark applications; and

95% of design applications, for which we have not raised any issues, are registered within one month.

Targeted business support

Deliver business outreach that enables 85% of its recipients to improve the IP performance of their businesses or the businesses they advise.

IPO customers will give an average score of eight out of 10 for the service they receive.

Enablers: value for money and people development

Achieve a return on capital employed of 4%.

In addition to the return on capital employed, deliver an efficiency gain of 3.5%.

Improve the IPO's engagement index so that our score is at least equal to that of the civil service 2011 benchmark.

In November 2010, the Prime Minister announced an independent review of how the intellectual property framework supports growth and innovation. This will report in April 2011. Once it has reported, I will consider whether to set the Intellectual Property Office any further targets for 2011-12.

TREASURY

Unfunded Public Service Pension Contributions

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The Government announced in spending review 2010 that they would accept the recommendation of the interim report of Lord Hutton's Independent Public Services Pensions Commission to review the discount rate used to set unfunded public service pension contributions. HM Treasury launched its consultation on the discount rate in December 2010, and this closed on 3 March 2011.

A new discount rate was announced at the 2011 Budget and today the Government publish their summary of responses.

On the basis of the submissions put forward in the consultation, the Government have decided that the discount rate used to set unfunded public service pension contributions will be in line with long-term expectations of GDP growth. The summary of responses document has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and can be found at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_unfunded_pensions.htm.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Abolition of Regional Strategies

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): The coalition Government are committed to enabling the abolition of regional strategies through the Localism Bill, in order to return decision-making powers in housing and planning to local authorities and the communities they serve.

I wish to inform the House that the Government have decided to carry out an environmental assessment of the revocation of the regional strategies.

I make it clear that the Government are undertaking this assessment on a voluntary basis. We consider that it would be useful to assess whether there are any significant environmental effects of revoking each regional strategy.

We intend to compile an environmental report for each region and to consult on it in line with the process laid down in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Local authorities and others should find this helpful in identifying issues relevant to their areas and policies or initiatives in the regional strategies which are no longer in effect, and it should also help them decide how to proceed with preparing or reviewing their own plans.

This process of environmental assessment will be carried out during the passage of the Bill through Parliament. Subject to Royal Assent, the revocation of each individual regional strategy will be commenced after the assessment process has been completed.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Social Mobility Strategy

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Nick Clegg): Today I am launching a cross-Government strategy to improve social mobility, "Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A

Strategy for Social Mobility". This has been overseen by the informal ministerial group on social mobility, which I chair, and in close collaboration with key Departments. I am placing copies in the Libraries of both Houses and making it available on the Cabinet Office website (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

Fairness is a fundamental value of the coalition Government. A fair society is an open society, in which everyone is free to flourish and rise, regardless of the circumstances of their birth. This strategy sets out our vision for a socially mobile society—the principal objective of the coalition Government's social policy.

In Britain today, the income and social class of parents continues to have a huge bearing on a child's chances. Gaps in development between children from different backgrounds can be detected even at birth. These gaps grow rapidly during the early years, and widen throughout school, such that only one in five young people from the poorest families achieve five good GCSEs, including English and maths, compared with three quarters from the richest families. This has a major impact on participation in further and higher education, and success in the labour market. These cycles of disadvantage are repeated across generations. This is not only a source of great unfairness, but also hinders our national prosperity as talented individuals are denied the opportunity to develop their full potential.

This strategy takes a comprehensive life cycle approach. A person's fortunes should not be determined by the age of five, 15 or 30. By providing help and support at every stage we aim to narrow the gaps and provide second chances. The strategy seeks to improve social mobility at each life stage: the foundation years (ages 0-5), school years (ages 5-16), transition years (ages 16-24) and adulthood (ages 24 and over).

In the foundation years, we welcome the independent reviews carried out by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field), the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen) and Dame Clare Tickell. Our approach puts supporting parents and providing affordable, high-quality early education and care centre stage. We are maintaining Sure Start children's centres, recruiting thousands more health visitors, expanding family nurse partnerships, and investing in free pre-school education for all disadvantaged two-year-olds, on top of existing provision for all three and four-year-olds.

During the school years, our school reforms—giving schools greater freedom, raising the status and quality of teaching, improving accountability and transparency—will raise standards in all schools, while the pupil premium will provide an extra £2.5 billion a year to radically improve educational outcomes for the most disadvantaged pupils. We will also raise aspiration through high-quality advice and guidance, much greater engagement between schools, businesses, and universities and wider society.

For young people we will look to narrow gaps in educational attainment, raising the participation age and increasing funding for apprenticeships, while ensuring fairer access to higher education and developing a new strategy to increase participation in education and training.

During adulthood, we will continue to encourage fair access to jobs, with the civil service leading by example and a new business compact on social mobility, asking business to do their bit. At the same time, we will maintain second chances to train and lifelong learning opportunities, improve work incentives through our welfare reforms, support lower and middle-income earners through our goal of raising the personal allowance to £10,000, and help people to build up assets.

Crucially, our strategy sets out a clear framework for holding the Government to account on our ambitious proposals. We are creating a new statutory Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, to assess progress on child poverty and social mobility, hold Government and others to account and act as an advocate for change.

We have developed a set of high-level indicators which will be used to track progress. And for the first time, as Departments develop new policies, they will need to consider the impact on social mobility.

I will continue to chair a group of key Ministers to maintain the momentum for change.

We recognise that Government alone cannot single-handedly create a fairer society—this is a task for parents, communities, businesses, professions, and voluntary organisations too. However, the coalition Government will help to create a fair and open society where opportunity is shared and everyone can flourish.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Water Affordability (Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): I am pleased to announce that DEFRA has today published its consultation on measures to assist households who face water affordability pressures and households in areas with particularly high water bills, such as the south-west.

The consultation follows publication of Anna Walker's independent review of charging for household water and sewerage services and the pledge made in the Budget to consult on proposals to address water affordability around reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the approach to company social tariffs and options for additional Government spending to provide further support.

The consultation invites views on replacing the current cap on bills under WaterSure with the lower of the company average metered bill or the national average metered bill. This would deliver substantial reductions in the bills of WaterSure recipients in areas where water bills are relatively high. In addition, it invites views on meeting the cost of WaterSure in the future from public expenditure rather than the current system of meeting WaterSure through the bills of individual water customers. It also paves the way for the introduction of company social tariffs to assist households who would struggle to pay their bills in full by asking a number of questions to help shape the Government's forthcoming guidance on company social tariffs.

The consultation also invites views on options that could reduce the bills of all household customers of South West Water and options that could target assistance towards low-income households in the region. These include the proposed changes to WaterSure and rebalancing sewerage charges to reduce all household bills or to fund a company social tariff (although this would be a decision for South West Water). Other options include an annual payment from the Government to reduce household bills in recognition of the disproportionately high bills paid by South West Water customers as a result of unforeseen infrastructure expenditure at the time of privatisation and an option of match funding from the Government for any company social tariff that South West Water chooses to bring forward.

Given that there is only a limited amount of public expenditure available to fund water affordability options, there is a balance to be struck when allocating this expenditure between assisting all household customers of South West Water on fairness grounds and helping low-income households in the region with acute water affordability problems. The Government will explore options to use additional public expenditure to deliver a modest reduction in bills for all households in the region alongside options to target households with specific affordability problems, both inside and outside the south-west.

The consultation covers England only and the deadline for responses is 17 June. The consultation is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/water-affordability-1104/

and I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. We will set out our policy proposals in our forthcoming Water White Paper.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My noble Friend Lord Henley represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 17 March.

The meeting began with one minute's silence in respect of the suffering in Japan.

Potential health implications for the EU as a consequence of the Japanese earthquake and subsequent nuclear incidents were discussed. The Commission confirmed it was monitoring events in Japan closely, but that currently they posed no risk to the health of EU citizens. Member states will be kept informed of any developments through the usual EU food safety rapid notification systems.

The presidency presented draft conclusions on CAP reform to the Council, in which it had made efforts to accommodate member states' concerns and the text was much improved. However a number of countries, including the UK, retained serious reservations on the draft conclusions for a variety of different, and sometimes conflicting, reasons; in the UK's case, because of concerns that the text did not make sufficiently clear the need for budgetary restraint and was insufficiently ambitious on the need for reform of direct payments. The presidency attempted to find further compromise text changes, but disappointingly focused only on the issue of allocation of resources between the older and newer member states. The presidency concluded that it could not find consensus in the Council and adopted the amended text as presidency conclusions, supported by a majority of member states. The conclusions were not supported by the UK, Sweden, Latvia, Denmark, Estonia, Malta, Greece and Lithuania.

The proposed authorisation of three genetically modified crops (one cotton and two maize) was referred to Council. The Commission clarified that these were not intended for cultivation within the EU and that the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) opinion had been favourable. The United Kingdom lifted its parliamentary scrutiny reserve and voted in favour. The Commission agreed to consider a request from Denmark for a proposal to address the issue of residues in foodstuffs. The presidency concluded that the Commission could finalise their decision-making process as there was no clear qualified majority in favour or against any of the proposals.

The Commission presented the findings from the dairy quarterly report showing a continuing positive trend for dairy in the EU. An extended advisory group will meet before the end of June and publish its outcomes on the Commission's report recommendations on the soft-landing for the dairy sector.

There were four items under other business:

> ED policy on animal welfare. The Commission explained that it was considering a range of options for future EU animal welfare policy; it hoped to publish a new strategy in December 2011. A report on the welfare of animals during transport will be published in October 2011.
>
> The Netherlands introduced a note calling for an ambitious trade deal with Mercosur, but noted the importance of EU agricultural interests. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to transparency in negotiations and to a balanced deal which must comprise a reciprocal level of ambition, be consistent with CAP reform objectives and in which the EU should not pay twice.
>
> The Netherlands presented a paper, co-sponsored by nearly all member states, on CAP simplification, identifying principles which should inform the CAP post-2013. The Commission said that the cost of the future CAP must be proportional to its objectives and that all future measures must be based on both an impact assessment and the collective appetite for risk.
>
> Spain (supported by Cyprus, Italy, Greece, France, Poland and Portugal) called for private storage aid to be triggered in order to deal with the problem of surplus olive oil production that had lowered market prices. The Commission pointed out that there had to be either evidence of serious market disruption, or that the market price had fallen below the trigger point, before such measures could be taken. However it was monitoring the market and will discuss matters at the next examination committee.

Ministers discussed institutional questions in relation to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, including the forthcoming election of a new director general, over lunch. The presidency noted that decisions on this appointment were in member states competence.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Leadership and Training Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am today placing in the Library of the House the report of the review of police leadership and training undertaken by Peter Neyroud QPM.

Last year I asked Peter Neyroud to undertake a review of police leadership and training, and I am very grateful to him for his work.

Effective leadership and development is essential in equipping the police to fight crime and deliver the service the public expect. We need to ensure that future generations of police leaders are able crime fighters.

The report contains a number of proposals and recommendations including the creation of a chartered professional body for policing that would set standards and ensure accreditation of these, a new delivery body for police leadership and training and a new qualifications framework for policing.

I will consider the review's conclusions and recommendations very carefully with the police service and other interested parties. I am today launching a public consultation on how police leadership and training could be delivered in the future and the review's proposals for this. Details of the public consultation can be found on the Home Office website and copies will also be placed in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conflict Resources (2011-12)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I, together with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence, wish to inform the House about our plans for funding conflict prevention, stabilisation, and peacekeeping activities for financial year 2011-12.

The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) announced that we will increase significantly our support to conflict prevention and poverty reduction, focusing on tackling threats at source in those fragile and conflict-affected countries where the risks are high, our interests are most at stake, and where we know we can have an impact. We have therefore agreed to an increase in the size of the conflict pool over the course of the next spending review period. The conflict pool is the mechanism by which the Government allocate resources for discretionary conflict prevention, stabilisation, and peacekeeping activities and is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Ministry of Defence.

We will increase the conflict pool's programme resources from £229 million this financial year to £256 million in FY 2011-12 and annually thereafter to £309 million in FY 2014-15. This excludes the net additional cost of military operations in Afghanistan where separate arrangements are in place to draw on the Treasury reserve.

As usual, the settlement provides a mix of official development assistance (ODA) funding and non-ODA resources. This will enable the conflict pool to bring together HMG's development, defence, and diplomacy capabilities in an integrated approach to tackling instability and conflict overseas.

Conflict Resources: Treasury Settlement (£m)

	Y1 *2011-12*	*Y2* *2012-13*	*Y3* *2013-14*	*Y4* *2014-15*
Peacekeeping (non-ODA)	374	374	374	374
Conflict Pool	256	270	290	309
Of which:				
ODA	130	150	175	200
non-ODA	126	120	115	109
Total Settlement	*630*	*644*	*664*	*683*
Of which ODA	130	150	175	200
Of which non-ODA	500	494	489	483

The Treasury reserve will continue to provide up to £374 million each year for assessed peacekeeping costs (the peacekeeping budget). The conflict pool is the first port of call should these obligatory costs exceed this figure. We have agreed to earmark £76 million from the conflict pool in FY 2011-12 for assessed peacekeeping costs in FY 2011-12 making a total provision of £450 million from which we will meet our obligations on international peacekeeping. We will keep allocations under review and will adjust the balance of resources allocated to the peacekeeping budget and the conflict pool if this is necessary. We will advise the House of any such adjustments to allocations on an annual basis.

The remaining conflict pool balance of £180 million for FY 2011-12 will fund discretionary peacekeeping, conflict prevention, and stabilisation activity. Maintaining a significant investment in these activities during the current financial climate demonstrates the Government's commitment to tackling instability and conflict at source and is strongly in the UK's national interest.

From 2011-12 the conflict pool will meet the running costs of the tri-departmental Stabilisation Unit, which supports UK civilian deployments, mainly to Helmand province, Afghanistan but also to southern Sudan, Somalia and other conflict priorities. The conflict pool will also operate a reserve of £7 million to cope with in-year pressures such as the rising costs of international peacekeeping missions and exchange rate fluctuations. The reserve will allow the Government the flexibility to respond to emerging issues. These additional costs in 2011-12, which were not covered by the conflict pool in 2010-11, mean that we have had to make some reductions compared with 2010-11 programme allocations.

Allocations for 2011-12 are based on an assessment of countries at risk of instability where UK national interests are most engaged.

PROGRAMME	*FY 2011-12 (£ million)*
Afghanistan	68.5
South Asia (other than Afghanistan)	15.5
Middle East	11.4
Africa	33.1
Wider Europe	27.5
Strengthening Alliances and Partnerships	5
Stabilisation Unit	12
Reserve	7
TOTAL	180

The allocation for Afghanistan will be maintained at £68.5 million and over 70% of the south Asia allocation of £15.5 million will be committed to Pakistan reflecting the importance of these countries to the UK's national security interests. A large proportion of Afghanistan's resources will continue to fund stabilisation activities in Helmand province. The south Asia programme will continue to support activities in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The allocation of £33.1 million for Africa will maintain current levels of support for conflict prevention activities and discretionary peacekeeping in Somalia and Sudan, and will continue to support activities elsewhere to build African capacity to prevent and manage conflict.

In the middle east the allocation of £11.4 million will be used to maintain current levels of activity in Yemen and Lebanon, and for programmes supporting the middle east peace process. The conflict pool will also continue to support stabilisation activities in Iraq. In addition, we will retain the flexibility to allocate programme funds to respond to new or emerging risks of conflict and instability in the region.

In wider Europe, the allocation of £27.5 million will maintain the UK's contribution to UN peacekeeping in Cyprus at approximately £18 million, and will continue to support EU and OSCE operations in the Balkans and Caucasus. In recognition of the importance that the National Security Council attaches to wider Europe, the Foreign Secretary has allocated an additional £2 million of programme funds from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's budget for FY 2011-12 to help mitigate the reduction in the programme's allocation compared with FY 2010-11.

The Strengthening Alliances and Partnerships programme (previously the Strategic Support to International Organisations programme) is allocated £5 million. It will continue to provide support to strengthening UN and other international organisations' capability to deliver an integrated and effective response to conflict, and assistance to countries in support of security sector reform programmes.

The Stabilisation Unit is the Government's front-line delivery service for stabilisation in countries affected by conflict, most notably working alongside the UK military in Helmand province. The allocation of £12 million to the unit will support the strengthening of civilian-military stabilisation co-operation and the deployment globally of civilian stabilisation experts from the unit's thousand-strong pool. It will also enhance the unit's integrated planning expertise in priority countries.

The SDSR set out our ambitious vision for a results-focused approach to building stability overseas with a strong emphasis on upstream work to prevent conflict and tackle emerging threats to the UK. The forthcoming building stability overseas strategy, which we will publish in spring 2011, will provide the over-arching framework for the UK's approach. It will enable the National Security Council to decide on strategies, priorities, and resource allocations for the remainder of the spending review period to 2015, focusing on the countries that matter most to the UK and where we can have the greatest impact. We will use the new strategy to guide the allocation of conflict pool resources from 2012-13 onwards.

JUSTICE

Probation Service (Revised National Standards)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): I am publishing today new national standards for the management of offenders that provide a framework for the purposeful and effective management of offenders subject to community and suspended sentence orders and supervision on licence. The standards cover relevant services to victims and courts, the assessment, planning and implementation of community sentences and licences in order to reduce reoffending, giving priority to reducing the risk of reoffending likely to cause serious harm to the public

In a concise format, each of the new standards is supported by NOMS guidance on any minimum mandatory requirements, indications of what is expected from high-quality work by probation practitioners, guidance on effective practice and on the source of more detailed instructions and guidance. I expect practitioners to manage their work with offenders as the risks of each case demands, using their knowledge of the individual case and drawing on their professional training and experience. Local managers will have a significant role to play in assuring the continuing quality of the work within the scope of these standards. When fully implemented alongside quality assurance methods, we expect these changes to drive the active management of offenders to reduce reoffending thereby protecting the public, moving away from a defensive, tick-box approach to following standard processes.

The mandatory requirements governing breach action after failures to comply with community and suspended sentence orders and licences have not been altered. We continue to expect sentences of the court to be properly enforced.

All decisions to terminate orders early, for instance for good progress, continue to require the case to return to court to allow magistrates and judges to make the final decision. We are considering the responses to the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", and Parliament will have the opportunity to examine further the potential for professional discretion for offender managers later in the year.

The new standards are consistent with this Government's commitment to reducing bureaucracy and allowing practitioners to use their judgment and professional skills. The revisions will enable local innovation in practice, and devolve responsibility for achieving results to individual practitioners and probation trusts.

In consultation with NOMS, probation trusts may adopt the new standards from today, with the expectation that they will have completed their local implementation by March 2012.

The new standards are available online.

Brussels I Regulation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My noble Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, (Lord McNally), has made the following written ministerial statement:

> "The Government have today decided to opt in to the European Commission's proposal to revise the "Brussels I" regulation (on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters).
>
> The Brussels I regulation establishes common rules governing which country's courts have jurisdiction in cross-border civil and commercial disputes and provides for the recognition and enforcement of their judgments. It is a bedrock legal instrument underpinning

international trade. The legal framework it establishes provides the legal certainty necessary to allow trade to be conducted with confidence.

The general consensus among those who most use the current regulation seems to be that it fulfils an essential function and that it generally works well. That is not, however, to say it is perfect. In particular, certain judgments of the European Court of Justice since the regulation was implemented have introduced some uncertainty in its operation and opened the possibility for tactical litigation to be used to frustrate its purpose. The European Commission's new proposal would repeal and replace the current regulation and attempt to resolve these widely identified problems and make other changes to bring the regulation up to date and most useful.

The House of Lords European Union Committee has recommended a UK opt-in. The matter was this week debated in European Committee B. The Committee agreed the Government's recommendation that the UK should opt in."

NORTHERN IRELAND

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): In my written statement to this House on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 2WS, I outlined the process to check the report in order to meet the obligations on me in relation to article 2 of the European convention on human rights and national security. I can confirm that this checking process has now been completed and I have received advice from the checking team which confirms that there is nothing in the report which, if published, could breach article 2 of the European convention on human rights by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk, or put national security at risk. I am therefore satisfied that the report can be published in full. However, publication cannot take place during the election campaign in Northern Ireland. I will therefore make a further announcement confirming the date of publication shortly after the elections have taken place on 5 May.

The report has not been shown to me or to any other Member of the Government, or to any officials except the members of the small team which carried out the checking process. I have not been briefed on the contents of the report, nor have any officials other than those in the checking team. Government will not have sight of the report until the day before it is published.

As with the publication of the Bloody Sunday and Billy Wright inquiry reports, I intend to consider giving advance sight of the report to those who are deemed interested parties to the inquiry, to their legal representatives and to some Members of this House. I have discussed this with the Speaker of the House and he has agreed these advance sight arrangements.

Non-jury Trial (Extension)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007, which provides for trial on indictment without a jury, is temporary and renewal and will expire at the end of the period of two years unless extended.

While the use of non-jury trials has reduced significantly in recent years, it is necessary to renew the powers in order to protect jurors from any potential risk posed by paramilitary groups.

It is always the hope and intention to return to jury trial in all cases in Northern Ireland. However, having considered the views of stakeholders and conducted a detailed analysis of the current threat, I believe it is necessary to extend the non-jury trial system at this time, for use in a very small number of cases, to ensure justice is administered fairly.

Therefore I am laying before Parliament an Order to extend the non-jury trial provisions for a further period of two years.

I will, of course, keep the situation under review. The Government remain committed to a return to jury trial in all cases as soon as it is deemed appropriate.

TRANSPORT

EU Cross-border Road Safety Directive

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I wish to inform the House that the Government have decided not to opt in to the proposed directive facilitating cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety at this stage.

The draft directive intends to improve enforcement of certain road traffic offences committed using vehicles registered in another member state. It aims to facilitate the exchange of registered keeper data between member states' registration authorities, to help identify offenders.

While broadly supportive of the objectives behind this measure, the UK did not opt in to the directive because, on balance, it did not appear to be in the UK's interests to do so at this stage.

In the UK we prosecute drivers for road traffic offences, rather than vehicle keepers. Given that the directive only provides for the exchange of vehicle keeper information, we had concerns around our ability to effectively pursue fines against the drivers of the vehicles, in the absence of effective provision to compel foreign registered keepers to disclose who was driving the vehicle when the offence was committed.

We questioned the interaction of the directive with the Prüm Council decisions, which the UK has signed up to, but not yet implemented, ("Prüm" provides for the exchange of keeper data between member states in relation to criminal offences) and were concerned about how the necessary data protection mechanisms could be enforced.

Additionally, we did not consider that a fine would have enough of a deterrent effect to bring about increased behavioural change, since domestically, research shows that it is the fear of points on a licence, or losing the licence altogether which have the main effect on increasing compliance.

We also had concerns around affordability. There would be significant start-up and running costs were our police to use keeper information obtained under the proposed directive for enforcement purposes.

Not opting in at this stage will give us the opportunity to carefully scrutinise the actual costs for set up and implementation of this directive across member states, informing any future decision on a possible post-adoption opt in, which the Government will look at longer-term.

A decision not to opt in to this particular directive does not prevent the UK from engaging with the EU on other matters relating to road safety nor co-operating on enforcement and exchanging data where there are strong, mutual interests for this. The UK continues to play a prominent part in developing EU strategy in these areas. We also expect that we will be able to continue to play a part in negotiating the final text of the directive.

A copy of this statement has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty Strategy

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): Today, the Government are publishing their first child poverty strategy.

The strategy follows one year on from Royal Assent of the Child Poverty Act 2010 and embodies our determination to tackle child poverty. This strategy, which covers the first strategy period 2011 to 2014, sets out how our radical reform programme will transform people's lives and break cycles of disadvantage.

Our strategy will protect the most vulnerable, reform welfare to make work pay and help those who are struggling to enter the labour market. For those who are able to work, we will provide help to get the best outcomes for them and their families.

The facts are that despite spending millions of pounds on addressing the issue, in the last several years progress against the child poverty targets has effectively stalled, while contributory factors, like worklessness, were left unchallenged meaning 5.8 million adults are still in poverty. Our strategy will bring together the work of several Departments to help improve children's life chances. Through the universal credit alone, we expect to lift 350,000 children out of poverty and 200,000 children out of the severest poverty. Overall universal credit will help nearly 1 million people out of poverty and with the Work programme we will see more people break out of the cycle of worklessness and benefit dependency.

We will do all in our power to increase the life chances of children by supporting vulnerable families through expanding the network of health visitors, targeting child care for the most disadvantaged and investing in early intervention. By increasing standards in education we will raise children's aspirations and narrow the gaps in attainment, which play such a crucial role in defining children's future lives.

As part of the strategy, we are announcing that we will establish a child poverty commission with an improved remit, wider and more effective than previously legislated for by the last Government. We have consulted widely to ensure that we get the power of the commission right and we have decided to increase the effectiveness of this body, further strengthening its role in holding the Government to account, while amending its advisory functions. This will be a broader commission which will monitor and drive progress towards ending child poverty, improving life chances, and increasing social mobility. Until the new commission is in place, we will be broadening the current remit of the Government's independent reviewer on social mobility (Alan Milburn) to include child poverty. Alan Milburn will then be appointed acting chair of the new commission while an open appointment process for the commission takes place. It is our intention to use the Welfare Reform Bill to make the necessary changes to the Child Poverty Act.

Parliamentary Written Answer (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I regret to inform the House that an error has been identified in the written answer 42792—28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 200-202W—given to the hon. Member for Westminster North (Ms Buck). I provided her with figures for tenants of registered social landlords. I should have provided her with tenants of registered social landlords and local authority tenants. These two together form social rented accommodation. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Steve Webb: DWP estimates of the number of households in receipt of housing benefit in social-rented accommodation by the requested family types and age bands are given in the following tables:

Housing benefit claimants in social rented accommodation, family type, aged under 60: November 2010.

Government Office Region	*All*	*Single, no child dependant*	*Single with child dependant(s)*	*Couple, no child dependant*	*Couple with child dependant(s)*
All	1,090,080	511,850	372,450	55,910	149,880
North East	52,950	26,010	15,740	4,090	7,110
North West	176,980	88,920	57,490	9,680	20,900
Yorkshire and Humberside	71,110	34,260	22,390	4,280	10,190
East Midlands	52,220	23,360	18,050	3,000	7,820
West Midlands	99,200	45,610	33,200	5,740	14,640
East of England	90,910	37,850	33,680	4,700	14,690
London	177,730	81,800	66,540	4,920	24,470
South East	122,430	49,890	46,700	5,980	19,850
South West	84,930	36,180	30,080	4,640	14,030
Wales	56,600	27,070	18,180	3,650	7,700
Scotland	105,020	60,910	30,410	5,230	8,470

60-state Pension age housing benefit claimants, social tenants: November 2010

	Claimants
All	96,000
North East	6,600
North West	18,370
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,440
East Midlands	4,420
West Midlands	8,760
East of England	7,140
London	10,610
South East	9,870
South West	7,670
Wales	5,720
Scotland	10,290

Notes:

1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and November 2010 are the latest available.

4. The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.

5. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

6. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

(a) the recipient if they are single, or

(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.

7. State pension age (SPA) is 65 years for men and currently 60 for women under the incremental SPA equalisation.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

The correct answer should have been:

DWP estimates of the number of households in receipt of housing benefit in social-rented accommodation by the requested family types and age bands are given in the following tables:

Housing Benefit claimants in social rented accommodation, family type, aged under 60: November 2010.

Government Office Region	*All*	*Single, no child dependant*	*Single with child dependant(s)*	*Couple, no child dependant*	*Couple with child dependant(s)*
All	1,949,500	906,480	663,420	106,490	273,110
North East	99,920	47,390	31,090	7,780	13,670
North West	240,060	120,600	76,900	13,420	29,140
Yorkshire and Humberside	158,060	74,370	49,830	10,440	23,430
East Midlands	119,660	52,360	41,060	7,870	18,370
West Midlands	186,250	83,480	62,690	11,300	28,800
East of England	144,890	60,540	52,900	8,080	23,370
London	373,350	167,370	140,350	11,720	53,920
South East	186,580	76,060	70,220	9,900	30,400
South West	121,220	51,510	42,850	7,060	19,800
Wales	95,840	43,360	32,100	6,590	13,780
Scotland	223,680	129,440	63,460	12,340	18,440

Housing Benefit claimants in social rented accommodation, aged 60 - State pension age: November 2010.

Government Office Region	*Claimants*
All	181,200
North East	12,290
North West	24,660
Yorkshire and Humberside	17,070
East Midlands	11,590
West Midlands	17,370
East of England	12,730
London	24,820
South East	16,700
South West	11,630
Wales	10,030
Scotland	22,310

Notes:

1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and November 2010 are the latest available.

4. The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.

5. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

6. The under 60 age group is based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

(a) the recipient if they are single, or

(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.

7. The aged 60—state pension age group is based upon all cases where the claimant is female and aged 60 on the count date, or male and aged 60-65, inclusive, on the count date. Cases where the gender of the claimant is not recorded have been excluded from these figures.

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Petitions

Tuesday 29 March 2011

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Green Belt Land (Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire)

The Petition of the residents of Mangotsfield, Rodway and Emersons Green,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned by recent actions taken by a developer to erect a hoarding fence around a site of protected green belt land at Cossham Street, Mangotsfield, which is used by the local community; and notes that land which has been proved to have been in local community use can apply for permission to be designated as having village green status.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage South Gloucestershire Council to support any forthcoming application by local residents for village green status with regard to green belt land at Cossham Street, Mangotsfield.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Skidmore.]*

[P000912]

Industrial Compensation (Stanley Embling)

The Petition of Stanley Embling, a citizen of the UK from Scunthorpe,

Declares that the Petitioner has tried everything in his powers as a former employee of British Steel to obtain compensation for an industrial accident, while on duty; that the Petitioner has suffered from negligence by his employer and their denial of fair hearings for industrial compensation, and that this included intimidation, deception by management, with coercion into retirement; notes that the Petitioner believes that his GMB Union has conspired to defraud him of what was owed to him and many other employees and that, in his attempts to get justice and compensation, he experienced unprofessional conduct and misfeasance by solicitors, the Law Society, the Police, two MPs and HM Court Services; that the Legal Aid Commissioner, the Solicitors' Regulatory Authority, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, the Humberside Police, the Serious Fraud Office and the Metropolitan Police have either refused or failed to investigate the white collar crimes against the Petitioner; and notes that a one-page summary detailing names of solicitors and MPs is publicised on the website of Victims Unite!

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to compensate the Petitioner in this case.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.

[P000913]

Petition

Friday 1 April 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Protection of Kingswood Green Belt (South Gloucestershire)

The Petition of residents of Longwell Green, Hanham, Mangotsfield, Emersons Green, North Common, Oldland Common, Warmley, Siston, Bridgeyate, Bitton, Willsbridge, and Kingswood,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned by attempts to build inappropriate development on the Kingswood Green Belt; notes that Green Belt sites at Williams Close, Longwell Green, Cossham Street, Mangotsfield and Barry Road, Oldland Common have faced applications to build housing which has consistently been opposed by local residents, locally elected councillors and the Member of Parliament; notes that South Gloucestershire Council's Core Strategy protects the Kingswood Green Belt; notes that Regional Spatial Strategies responsible for placing local Green Belts at risk will shortly be abolished; notes that the Planning Inspectorate must take the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies into account as a material consideration when ruling on current appeals; and further welcomes that decisions over future development will be returned to democratically elected councillors.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to protect and preserve the Kingswood Green Belt for future generations to come.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Skidmore, Official Report,* 17 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 1214.*]*

[P000890]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

In the coalition agreement the Government made a commitment to maintain Green Belt and, to that end, local plan-makers and decision-takers should continue to have regard to national planning policy, including that currently set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts".

In May 2010 the Secretary of State announced the intention to abolish regional strategies, and their abolition will be achieved by the passage of the Localism Bill into law. This will end the imposition of "top-down" regional plans and housing targets. These have in the past put pressure on local planning authorities to accept certain levels of development and promoted the review of some green belt boundaries.

The Government said that they would make local communities fully responsible for determining the right level and locations for development, housing site provision and green belt in their own areas. A new "duty to co-operate" in the Localism Bill will require local planning authorities to discuss with neighbouring authorities any issues of more than local importance. However, it is increasingly important that local people engage in the plan-making process so as to influence the shape and extent of future development.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 March 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Libya: Overseas Aid

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated for humanitarian purposes to assist people *(a)* in Libya and *(b)* seeking to leave Libya since 1 January 2011; for what purposes any sums over £100,000 were allocated; and if he will make a statement. [49499]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) takes the humanitarian issues arising out of the Libyan crisis very seriously. To assist people in Libya, DFID has provided £2 million of funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross who are active inside many areas of Libya now. This will fund three medical teams with supplies to treat 3,000 people affected by fighting and 100,000 of those in greatest need.

The total directly allocated by DFID to assist people seeking to leave Libya is £8.04 million. The breakdown of this funding is detailed in the tables. The majority of the funding has been for repatriation flights for over 12,000 people from the border camps. In addition, the UK was the first country to provide blankets and tents giving shelter for up to 10,000 people stranded at the Libya-Tunisia border. The actions by the UK and other international donors have avoided a logistical problem becoming a humanitarian crisis,

DFID has also provided indirect contributions via the European Commission.

DFID bilateral contributions in response to Libya unrest

Activity	*Purpose*	*Recipient*	*Amount (£ million)*
To assist people within Libya			
Support to ICRC	Medical supplies to assist people within Libya.	ICRC	2
To assist people seeking to leave Libya			
Shelter Supplies	Shelter supplies for people at the Libyan borders	IOM/UNHCR	0.84
Repatriations	Repatriation flights for people at the Libyan borders (35 flights to move 6,195 Egyptians and 521 Bangladeshis) and support to IOM operations	IOM (including in kind contribution of flights)	3.1
Support to IOM	Funding for additional repatriation flights	IOM/UNHCR	4
Air Ops Advisers	Advisers seconded to UNHCR	UNHCR	0.1
Total	—	—	10.04

DFID indirect contributions

Activity	*Purpose*	*Recipient*	*Amount (£ million)*
EC	15% of €30 million EC Funds Committed	Various	3.87
Total	—	—	3.87
Grand total	—	—	13.91

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 844W, on overseas aid, when he plans to publish the operational plans for each country receiving bilateral aid from his Department. [49634]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Operational plans will be published from April 2011.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which public bodies sponsored by the Government Equalities Office *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following her appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47115]

Lynne Featherstone: The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments, including the Government Equalities Office, were announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 was published on the Cabinet Office website on 16 March 2011.

Summary information on public appointments is published annually by the Cabinet Office. This includes data on gender. Copies of the most recent report can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate she has made of the savings to the Government Equalities Office net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of 11 public bodies within the Office's area of responsibility and *(b)* the change in function of one such body. [48144]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The Minister for the Cabinet Office issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

For bodies sponsored or formerly sponsored by the Government Equalities Office, I anticipate from structural reforms net overall savings of £86 million, and net overall administrative savings of £37 million, over the spending review period.

Racial Discrimination

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will bring forward proposals to use the powers in section 9 (5) (a) of the Equality Act 2010 to make caste an aspect of race for the purposes of the Act. [49073]

Lynne Featherstone: In March 2010 the Government commissioned an independent report on caste prejudice and discrimination in Great Britain from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. The report was published in December 2010.

One of the purposes of the report was to help consideration of whether the power relating to caste ~~contained~~ within the Equality Act 2010 should be exercised. The Government are still considering the report carefully, together with the various representations that they have subsequently received from a range of lobby groups, and will announce their conclusions on whether or not to exercise the power in due course.

Women's National Commission.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate the Government Equalities Office has made of the savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Women's National Commission. [48682]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 25 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 465W.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make proposals to the independent trustees responsible for Chequers, for Chequers to be open to the public. [49509]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter for the trustees.

Chequers: Operating Costs

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 31W, on Chequers: operating costs, in which year a grant was first made from the Cabinet Office to the independent trustees. [49508]

The Prime Minister: The authority for the issuing of grants in aid to the Chequers Trust derives from the Chequers Estate Act 1958.

Personnel: Criminal Investigation

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he requires members of staff at No. 10 Downing Street to inform him when they are subject to criminal investigation. [49502]

The Prime Minister: Matters relating to the conduct of members of staff are set out in the Cabinet Office Human Resources Code.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which external bodies received funding from his Department and its agencies from the *(a)* community resilience and *(b)* Preventing Violent Extremism funding streams in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and (A) how much each received and (B) what the purpose of the payment was in each case, listing the value of the payments and purpose of the payment to each individual or body. [43866]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not operate a separate funding stream for community resilience.

Owing to the quantity of data involved, details regarding the bodies and individuals that received funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government under the Preventing Violent Extremism funding stream have been placed in the Library of the House.

Aerials: Planning Permission

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to revise guidance issued to local authorities on the treatment of planning applications from mobile telephone operators. [49260]

Robert Neill: We are considering how to take forward policy on telecommunications masts as part of the new planning policy framework. We are due to consult on the framework in the summer.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials of each grade in his Department have policy responsibility for dealing with anti-Semitism; what sources are available to them to obtain up-to-date information about anti-Semitism in the UK; what recent reports he has received from officials in his Department about levels of anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [48997]

Andrew Stunell: The Decentralisation and Big Society Directorate in the Department of Communities and Local Government is responsible for the formulation and, in partnership with other Departments, the implementation of policy on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism. The Department's work on anti-Semitism falls under the auspices of the team that works on hate crime and includes two officials. The team have a number of sources available to them across Government and externally as appropriate and provides regular updates to Ministers.

Brighton Marina

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has received any recent representations on the provisions of the Brighton Marina Act 1968. [49175]

Robert Neill: My Department has received no written representations on provisions in relation to the Brighton Marina Act 1968, other than from my hon. Friend.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has had discussions with local authorities on the future ring fencing arrangements for the Housing Revenue Account following the introduction of self-financing. [49176]

Andrew Stunell: My Department has not had specific discussions with local authorities on this subject though it has been raised in general discussions on reforms to the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. The ring-fence will continue after reform and 'Implementing self-financing for council housing', which we published on 1 February, advised that we do not intend to issue new guidance on its operation.

Abolition of the subsidy system does not end the requirement for local authorities to maintain a statutory, ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account. They will still be required to account to their tenants for income and expenditure on council housing separately from other functions and services. This ensures that council tax payers do not subsidise services specifically for the benefit of tenants and that rent is not used to subsidise functions which are for the benefit of the wider local community.

Housing: Construction

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on requiring the compulsory installation of sprinkler systems in all newly-built domestic properties. [49530]

Andrew Stunell: Provisions for fire protection in new buildings are made in Part B (Fire safety) of the Building Regulations. While there are some situations where sprinkler protection is required, this does not apply to all domestic properties.

Following a review of these regulations last year, we have concluded that there is not any significant new evidence on the health and safety benefits of greater sprinkler provision that would alter the cost/benefit analysis and the basis of the current approach. Details of the findings of this review were published in December and are available on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/buildingregsnextsteps

Housing: Owner Occupation

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has for the future of *(a)* commonhold and *(b)* leasehold tenure; [41519]

(2) what plans he has for the future rights of domestic leaseholders. [41520]

Grant Shapps: My Department receives representations from a wide range of interests, including from freeholders (landlords) and leaseholders, about residential leasehold. Residential leasehold is a long-established way of owning property in England and Wales. We have no plans to abolish the leasehold system.

The Government recognise however the need to strike the correct balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and leaseholders. It is important that landlords and managing agents as well as other businesses operate in a socially responsible manner. As with all regulation, state intervention should be proportionate, seeking to raise standards where there is bad practice, and avoiding unnecessary burdens across the leasehold sector.

In general, we believe that the current legislative framework can deliver that balance, if matched by an increasingly pro-active and positive approach by the professionals in the sector. I am, however, aware of some specific concerns, particularly in the retirement sector where there is an ongoing OFT investigation. We will, however, keep a close watching brief and will not rule out making changes in future if that proves necessary.

Commonhold is a new tenure introduced in 2004. Issues concerning commonhold are a matter for the Ministry of Justice. The Government have no plans to alter the commonhold legislation and intend that commonhold will remain a voluntary alternative to long leasehold ownership for flats and other interdependent properties.

Housing: Regulation

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will make it his policy to support an accreditation scheme to regulate the leasehold-managed accommodation sector; [45861]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of regulation of the leasehold-managed accommodation sector. [45862]

Grant Shapps: The Government recognise the need to strike the correct balance of rights and responsibilities between freeholders (landlords) and leaseholders. It is important that landlords and managing agents as well as other businesses operate in a socially responsible manner. As with all regulation, state intervention should be proportionate, seeking to raise standards where there is bad practice, and avoiding unnecessary burdens across the leasehold sector.

My Department continues to receive representations from leaseholders and freeholders (landlords) on the broader issues of residential leasehold. Having considered the issue of regulation in the leasehold management sector, we believe that the current legislative framework can deliver that balance, if matched by an increasingly pro-active and positive approach by the professionals in the sector. We are therefore not convinced by the case for regulating managing agents in the leasehold sector but, whilst we have no immediate plans to make any changes, we will keep the matter under consideration.

Leasehold: Regulation

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of introducing a system of regulation of managing agents of leasehold properties. [46507]

Grant Shapps: The Government recognise the need to strike the correct balance of rights and responsibilities between freeholders (landlords) and leaseholders. It is important that landlords and managing agents as well as other businesses operate in a socially responsible manner. As with all regulation, state intervention should be proportionate, seeking to raise standards where there is bad practice, and avoiding unnecessary burdens across the leasehold sector.

My Department continues to receive representations from leaseholders and freeholders (landlords) on the broader issues of residential leasehold. We have considered the issue of regulation in the leasehold management sector and believe that the current legislative framework can deliver that balance, if matched by an increasingly pro-active and positive approach by the professionals in the sector. We are therefore not convinced by the case for regulating managing agents in the leasehold sector but, while we have no immediate plans to make any changes, we will keep the matter under consideration.

Local Government: Pay

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to enable non-executive council members to limit the remuneration of local authority chief executives. [49095]

Robert Neill: The Government have brought forward measures in the Localism Bill to require locally elected councillors to have a greater say in the setting of senior pay. Under the proposals, councils will have to prepare, approve and publish a senior pay policy statement which will set the framework which they will be required to follow when setting senior pay locally. Such a statement must be considered by full council.

In addition, the Secretary of State has signalled his intention to issue guidance under those provisions to set out the Government's view on a threshold at which remuneration decisions should be always brought before full council to vote on. The Secretary of State's view is that £100,000 is an appropriate threshold. This will be expressed in guidance to which councils must have regard. The guidance will be published in draft for consultation in due course.

The Government's role in specific local government pay and workforce issues is extremely limited as they are, rightly, a matter for the individual councils as the employer. The Government are clear, however, that the measures set out above will greatly increase local democratic accountability over local authority pay matters.

Planning

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the potential effects on economic growth of implementation of his plans for more localised decision-making by planning authorities. [49284]

Greg Clark: Giving people power and control and delivering economic growth are complementary objectives. By removing the antagonism created by imposed regional housing targets, and through powerful incentives, including the New Homes Bonus, the planning system will support the delivery of new homes and economic growth. In addition, the Duty to Cooperate will ensure that local authorities and other public bodies maximise the effectiveness of working on strategic planning issues such as economic growth.

Private Rented Housing: Regulation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to introduce greater regulation of the activities of private landlords. [49100]

Andrew Stunell: It is important to ensure that the right balance is achieved between providing protections for tenants and discouraging existing and potential landlords from renting out their properties. The Government believe that the current regulatory framework delivers that balance and has no plans to introduce greater regulation into the sector. Overburdening private landlords with regulation would risk deterring property owners from letting their properties, potentially reducing choice and/or increasing rents. That would help no one whether they are a tenant or a landlord.

Solar Power: Planning Permission

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for solar farms have been made in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency in each of the last five years; and what the size of the proposed solar farm was in each case. [49081]

Robert Neill: Information on planning applications for solar farms will be available from individual local planning authorities but is not collected by this Department. The Renewable Energy Planning Database, accessible via the Department for Energy and Climate Change's website, includes data on solar photovoltaic projects but the statistics do not include all live planning applications because of the time lag in collecting data.

Standards Board for England

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to replace the responsibilities undertaken by *(a)* the Standards Board for England and *(b)* local standards committees; who will be responsible for future disciplinary processes involving local authorities; and how such processes will be funded. [47420]

Robert Neill: The Standards Board regime fuelled petty complaints and malicious vendettas, wasting taxpayers' money and harming local democracy.

The Localism Bill places a duty on councils to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, under which it will be their responsibility to take and fund such measures, including establishing any appropriate disciplinary processes, that they see fit to fulfil this duty.

And as a guard against corruption, the Bill also provides that a member will commit a criminal offence if he or she, without reasonable excuse, fails to register or disclose an interest, or takes part in council business having personal interests which prohibit this.

Voluntary Organisations: Playing Fields

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to assist local organisations to establish Queen Elizabeth II fields. [47603]

Hugh Robertson: I have been asked to reply.

Through the London 2012 Olympic Legacy programme, Places People Play, Sport England has entered into a partnership with Fields in Trust (FIT) and will be supporting the protection of playing fields as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields initiative.

WALES

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has had discussions with the First Minister on steps to combat anti-Semitism in Wales since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [48875]

Mr David Jones: Neither I nor the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) has discussed the issue of anti-Semitism in Wales with the First Minister.

While the Wales Office has not been approached directly, the coalition Government regularly receive representations from right hon. and hon. Members, representative organisations and members of the public about anti-Semitism. The coalition Government also receive regular updates from the Community Security Trust on incidents of anti-Semitism and, through the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism, meets representatives of the Community Security Trust, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council on a quarterly basis. The coalition Government's approach to tackling anti-Semitism across the United Kingdom can be found in the "Three Years on Progress Report" which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/antisemitismresponse

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Charities

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Service gave to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much it plans to allocate in funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48514]

John Thurso: The House of Commons Commission does not generally fund charitable activities. There are some instances though where services are delivered through organisations which are registered charities. The Commons share of parliamentary support has been:

(a) Grant in aid:

£000

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
History of Parliament Trust (HPT)	1,300	1,320	1,408	1,179	1,061
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: UK Branch (CPA)[1]	n/a	n/a	1,324	1,364	1,023

[1] The CPA was funded by HM Treasury prior to 2008-09.

(b) Work commissioned:

	Hansard Society Ltd (£000)
2006-07	[1]—
2007-08	89
2008-09	117
2009-10	129
2010-11 to date	140

[1] Not available

Some charitable bodies also receive income indirectly from the House of Commons. These include The Speaker's Art Fund which receives a proportion of the surplus income generated from the sale of souvenirs, and The House of Commons Heritage and Works of Art Trust which receives income derived from filming rights.

Grant in aid payments in future years will be fixed annually, after taking account of existing sources of income and agreed levels of activity.

Location

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the location is of each unit of accommodation on the House of Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate which is adapted for overnight sleeping. [48579]

John Thurso: Overnight sleeping accommodation on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate is located at 1, 2 and 3 Parliament street, 2a, 2b and 4 Canon Row and at Speaker's House and in the Ways and Means Corridor in the Palace of Westminster.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what arrangements are in place in the House of Commons Service to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48201]

John Thurso: Staff who have a mental health issue can self-refer or be referred by their manager to the Parliamentary Safety, Health and Wellbeing Service, whose focus is on facilitating physical and mental health by promoting healthy behaviour, and by providing training, a good physical working environment and support for employees with mental health problems. Services available to House staff who may be experiencing stress include access to welfare officers for counselling, and referral to the in-house occupational health physician or psychiatrist. Training on coping with pressure and mental health awareness are available, as are self-help courses such as postural and relaxation classes and yoga. Information is available about external support such as from MIND and Rethink. There were 17 referrals to the service in 2009-10.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Manpower

Mr Dodds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many full-time equivalent staff employed by the Cabinet Office work on the administration of the electoral system. [49560]

Mr Harper: The Elections and Democracy Division in the Cabinet Office is responsible for policy and legislation on the conduct of UK-wide statutory elections and referendums and for local elections in England and Wales, including electoral registration and the franchise; law and policy on the setting of parliamentary boundaries (including sponsorship of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for England and Wales); and law and policy on the financing of political parties and candidates. In addition, the Electoral Registration Transformation Programme, established following the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009, is tasked with delivering the transition to individual electoral registration.

There are the equivalent of 25 full-time staff in the Elections and Democracy Division, and 15 in the Electoral Registration Transformation Programme.

Electoral Register

Mr Crausby: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to *(a)* encourage and *(b)* increase levels of electoral registration in Great Britain. [49134]

Mr Harper: Maintaining a complete and accurate electoral register is the responsibility of electoral registration officers (EROs) in accordance with their duties under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983. EROs are appointed by, but independent of, local authorities. In carrying out this responsibility, as with other aspects of their role, EROs are monitored by the Electoral Commission, which sets performance standards and provides guidance on the performance of their duties.

In addition, the Electoral Commission runs campaigns to encourage voter registration and provide information on elections as part of its duty under section 13 (1) (a) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The Government have announced their plans to speed up the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration in 2014 and is committed to looking at how we can use this opportunity to improve electoral registration. This year we are trialling data matching—comparing the electoral register with other public databases to identify people missing from the register. If successful, we will consider roiling this out across the country.

Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

Mr Dodds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on the provisions of the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill. [49561]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to working constructively with all of the devolved Administrations. The Minister of State for Northern Ireland, the right hon. Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) wrote to party leaders in Northern Ireland on this issue last year following which the Government concluded that it would be better to await the outcome of the combined polls scheduled for May 2011 before taking a decision on whether special provision would be needed for Northern Ireland to deal with the coincidence of elections in 2015.

Voting

Mr Dodds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received on reform of *(a)* postal and *(b)* proxy voting; and what plans he has to bring forward proposals for such reform. [48821]

Mr Harper: The Government have received representations from the Electoral Commission (EC), Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) and Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for changes to be made to some of the existing postal and proxy voting processes. For example, both the EC and AEA have asked the Government to consider extending the current emergency proxy arrangements to include other 'emergencies' or circumstances that might prevent an elector from voting in person.

We have also received a range of correspondence on the existing absent voting arrangements. This has included requests both for greater restrictions to be placed on postal and proxy voting and for all-postal ballots to be used for the referendum on the voting system and other statutory polls.

The Government will consider these issues after the referendum on the voting system for the House of Commons, alongside the changes to the electoral process required to implement individual elector registration.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what decisions were reached at the 1108th meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers relating the UK and prisoner voting; if he will publish all documents sent to the Council of Europe from the Government in relation to this matter; who represented the UK Government at this meeting; when he expects the UK's position on prisoner votes next to be discussed by the Committee of Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [48393]

Mr Harper: The Committee of Ministers publishes on their website the decisions reached at each of their meetings and copies of any documents submitted by member states' governments. The relevant decision and documents for the 1108th meeting can be found at:

https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1718797&Site =CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColor Intranet=EDB021& BackColorLogged=F5D383

The Government are represented at meetings of the Committee of Ministers by the United Kingdom Delegation to the Council of Europe.

The Committee of Ministers decided to resume consideration of prisoner voting rights in the UK once the Government's request to refer the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the "Greens and MT" case to the Grand Chamber of the Court has been considered.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has notified the Council of Europe of the outcome of Division No. 199 on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 584-6; and if he will make a statement. [48394]

Mr Harper: The Government notified the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers of the outcome of the recent Back-Benchers' debate on prisoner voting rights in an Information Note provided ahead of the 1108th meeting. The Information Note is available on the Committee of Ministers' website at:

https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1753877&Site= CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021& BackColorLogged=F5D383

CABINET OFFICE

Absent Voting

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to bring forward legislation to facilitate the reform of the postal voting system for local, national and European elections; and if he will make a statement. [49112]

Mr Harper: The Government will consider these issues after the referendum on the voting system for the House of Commons, alongside the changes to the electoral process required to implement individual elector registration.

Departmental Hospitality

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48412]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not have ministerial drinks cabinets.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on official hospitality including alcohol is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity & Propriety".

Big Society Initiative

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings on the Big Society with *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* representatives of the voluntary sector organised by his Department have been held on the parliamentary estate since May 2010. [40333]

Mr Hurd: Both I and my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office have held regular meetings with representatives of the voluntary sector on the subject of the Big Society since May 2010. These meetings are held in a variety of locations within Whitehall, the parliamentary estate and on the premises of external organisations.

Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis; details can be accessed at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Boarding Schools

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department provides financial assistance to his officials for boarding school fees for their children. [48516]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not provide financial assistance to officials for boarding school fees.

Census

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will request the Office for National Statistics to publish its contract with Lockheed Martin UK in respect of the 2011 census. [46276]

Mr Maude: Considerable information on the census contract with Lockheed Martin has already been published by the Office for National Statistics. This includes the list of subcontractors involved and the additional contractual constraints to ensure data security, confidentiality of census information and to guarantee that the United States Patriot Act could not be used to gain access to personal census data. The contract contains commercially sensitive and confidential information and so would not be appropriate for publication.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which companies were shortlisted to carry out the 2011 Census; what criteria were used during the selection process; and if he will make a statement. [47804]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking (i) which companies were shortlisted to carry out the 2011 Census; and (ii) what criteria were used during the selection process. (47804)

(i) I should firstly like to clarify that it is ONS, as the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority which is carrying out the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

As was the case with the 2001 Census, there are some parts of the census operation which have been contracted out to a number of companies. During the procurement many suppliers were shortlisted and over 30 were awarded contracts. The main contracts were awarded to the following suppliers:-

Capita Business Services for field staff recruitment, training and payment administration;

Royal Mail for postal delivery and collection services;

Lockheed Martin UK for management of operational services; and

3M for the provision of supplies to field staff and requests for materials from the field staff and the public

(ii) With over 35 contracts awarded there were a variety of evaluation criterion used for each. In general there were 6 main over-arching evaluation criteria that were used to determine the chosen suppliers. They were:-

compliance with mandatory requirements i.e. all requirements listed in the statement of requirements marked as mandatory

understanding of the business needs

technical capability of the proposed solution

legal/contractual assessment

risks, and

value for money

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which companies were considered to undertake data processing for the 2011 census prior to the award of the contract. [48387]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking which companies were considered to undertake data processing for the 2011 Census prior to the award of the contract (48387).

Data processing is a part of the contract to provide operational services for the 2011 Census. A number of expressions of interest were received with BT, CMC Limited, Lockheed Martin UK Limited and T-Systems Limited passing pre-qualification. Subsequently Lockheed Martin UK provided the best technical solutions offering overall best value for money for the taxpayer.

Under the Lockheed Martin UK contract, data processing services have been subcontracted to UK Data Capture which is running the data processing operation at a specially commissioned site in Manchester.

ONS carried out a fully compliant procurement in accordance with the requirements of European law and the European Union Procurement Directives, which have been incorporated into English law. The foundations of the rules are fairness and transparency. Any organisation with the correct technical capability, financial stability and experience therefore has the opportunity to compete openly for Government business throughout the European Union without discrimination.

Charities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of *(a)* registration and *(b)* closure of charities was in each of the last five years. [48508]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 22 March 2011:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question, what the rate of (a) registration and (b) closure of charities was in each of the last five years [48508].

The number of newly registered charities in each of the years for which figures are available is as follows:

	Number
2005-06	5,153
2006-07	5,081
2007-08	4,953
2008-09	5,410
2009-10	6,261

The number of charities that ceased to operate in each of the years for which figures are available is shown in the table below:

Reason for removal	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Charity ceased to exist or operate in its current form due to a merger, adoption of incorporated status or transfer of funds to another charity, or charities	1,592	1,725	1,436	1,584	1,647	7,984
Charities identified as dormant and removed from the Register	3,344	2,691	3,270	5,182	8,760	23,247
Total	4,936	4,416	4,706	6,766	10,407	31,231

Between 2008/09 and 2009/10, there was an increase in the number of charities removed because they were identified as dormant or for other reasons. This was due to our strategy of maintaining a more accurate Register of Charities by proactively removing those which had ceased to exist.

I hope this information is helpful.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many registered charities ceased operation in each of the last five years; and what his policy is on monitoring the rate of such closures in the next five years. [48509]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. I have asked the commission to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 22 March 2011:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question, how many registered charities ceased operation in each of the last five years; and what his policy is on monitoring the rate of such closures in the next five years. [48509]

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Total	4,936	4,416	4,706	6,766	10,407	31,231

Between 2008/09 and 2009/10, there was an increase in the number of charities removed because they were identified as dormant or for other reasons. This was due to our strategy of maintaining a more accurate Register of Charities by proactively removing those that had ceased to exist.

The Charity Commission continues to fulfil its statutory duty to maintain an accurate and up-to-date Register of Charities.

I hope this information is helpful.

Departmental Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49255]

Mr Maude: Figures for 2010-11 will be available when the Cabinet Office accounts have been audited, and will be published as part of the 2010-11 Cabinet Office Resource Accounts.

It is not possible to provide details of the funding for 2011-12 because the Cabinet Office has not yet finalised unit budgets for 2011-12.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48429]

Mr Maude: The cost of providing indoor and outdoor plants and trees forms part of the Total Facilities Management (FM) contract which the Cabinet Office has with its FM provider, EcovertFM. Within the contract, there are separate charges for 'soft landscaping' and expenditure on indoor and outdoor plants and trees would be included in that category, and only be available at disproportionate cost. However, the amount spent on soft landscaping is less than 1% of the total FM contract, and the provision in the contract for indoor plants was cancelled in the summer of 2009.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Main Honours Advisory Committee. [48726]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period, no savings would accrue from the abolition of the Main Honours Advisory Committee as the functions of the Committee are administered from within the Cabinet Office.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board. [48727]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period I anticipate the level of net overall administrative savings to accrue from the structural reform of the Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Body to be £0.02 million.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Commission for the Compact. [48728]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period I anticipate the level of net overall administrative savings to accrue from the structural reform of the Commission for the Compact to be £0.26 million.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of Capacitybuilders. [48729]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period I anticipate the level of net overall administrative savings to accrue from the structural reform of Capacitybuilders to be £2.1 million.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Security Commission. [48756]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period I anticipate the level of net overall administrative savings to accrue from the structural reform of the Security Commission to be £4,000.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Office for Civil Society Advisory Body. [48757]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period I anticipate the level of net overall administrative savings to accrue from the structural reform of the Office for Civil Society Advisory Body to be £0.04 million.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the National School of Government. [48758]

Mr Maude: Over the spending review period I anticipate the level of net overall administrative savings to accrue from current plans for the reform of the National School of Government to be £5.4 million.

Emergencies

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on increasing liaison between blue-light services for the purposes of improving response to civil contingency emergencies; and if he will make a statement. [48503]

Mr Maude: In approving the Strategic Defence and Security Review published in October last year[1] and subsequently, the National Security Council has endorsed the importance of improving cooperation between the blue light services as a means of enhancing arrangements for emergency response and crisis management. Cabinet Office officials are involved in discussions on a number of programmes to enhance cooperation, including making best use of the Airwave radio network and other means of communication to enhance information sharing in a crisis, and the development of tactics for joint operation of the police, fire and ambulance forces and other emergency responders.

Cross-government ministerial oversight of this work at a national level is provided through the National Security Council and its sub-committees.

[1] www.direct.gov.uk/sdsr

Government Departments: Recruitment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants have been recruited during the period of the Civil Service recruitment freeze. [48699]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* The latest period for which data is available indicates that civil service recruitment has fallen by around 80% compared to the same period in 2009. Between 24 May 2010 to 31 December 2010, the total number of civil servants recruited was 4,535, as measured by the number of exceptions to the recruitment freeze approved by Departments (out of a total headcount of 482,000, excluding the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments). For the same period in 2009, a total of around 27,000 people were recruited into the civil service.

Life Expectancy: Wolverhampton

Mr McFadden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in Wolverhampton South East constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [48887]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy was for (a) men and (b) women in Wolverhampton South East constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available (48887).

Life expectancy figures at parliamentary constituency level are not readily available. However, figures are available for Wolverhampton metropolitan district which contains Wolverhampton South East constituency.

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. Table 1 provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) males and (b) females for (i) 1996-98 and (ii) 2007-09 (the latest figures available).

Period life expectancies at birth for (a) males and (b) females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2007-09, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], Wolverhampton metropolitan district[2], 1996-98 and 2007-09[3]

		Years of life
	Males	*Females*
1996-98	74	79
2007-09	76	81

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2010 for all the years shown.

[3] Three year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

Mutual Societies

Chris Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when his Department plans to issue the invitation to tender for the Mutual Support Programme; [47977]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely number of bidders to operate the Mutual Support Programme; [48053]

(3) whether he plans to release funding in addition to the initial proposed expenditure on the Mutual Support Programme; [48054]

(4) what role he expects the Mutual Support Programme to play in supporting mutual pathfinders; [48055]

(5) what proportion of callers to the Mutual Information Service were from *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector bodies in the latest period for which figures are available. [48056]

Mr Hurd: The Prime Minister has recently appointed Julian Le Grand to chair a Mutuals Taskforce. The Taskforce will drive forward the development of mutuals and is currently considering a variety of options.

The Mutuals Support Programme is currently being considered. The potential provider market (i.e. likely number of bidders) will be reviewed in this process.

The link between the Mutuals Support Programme and the Pathfinder programme will be clarified when a decision is made.

There are currently no plans to release funding in addition to the initial proposed expenditure on the Mutual Support Programme.

Between 17 November 2010 and 31 January 2011, the Mutuals Information Service received 91% of inquires from public sector employees and 9% from support providers and mentors. Please note information on the nature (i.e. public sector or private sector) of the support providers and mentors are not available.

Chris Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what date he expects the Mutual Support Programme tender process to be completed. [49125]

Mr Hurd: Options for the Mutuals Support Programme are currently being considered. Further information will be available shortly.

Significant work is currently being undertaken to develop the Right to Provide across public services areas and to address cross cutting barriers to the take up of this Right.

Office for Civil Society: Community Matters

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for the future of Community Matters in the Office for Civil Society strategic partners programme. [49633]

Mr Hurd: Community Matters submitted an application to the Office for Civil Society (OCS) Strategic Partners Transition programme but was not successful.

The focus of the programme is on providing representation and 'voice' for the VCSE sector to feed into Government. As a smaller, more focussed programme than the previous OCS Strategic Partners programme, this was a highly competitive process.

There will be opportunities to build strong relationships with Government whether or not funded through this programme and I expect OCS to continue to have a good relationship with Community Matters in the future.

Parental Responsibility

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of children in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland are in families where one parent is not the child's natural parent. [48251]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of children in (a) each region of England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland are in families where one parent is not the child's natural parent. (48251)

The 2001 Census provides the most comprehensive estimate of the number of dependent step-children. It is not possible to readily identify dependent step-children from more recent sources. Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household. A child will be defined as a step-child in the Census if the person completing the Census form ticks 'step-child' as the relationship between that child and an adult in the household, in most cases this adult would be married to, or cohabiting with one of the child's natural parents.

Table 1 shows the number of dependent step-children as a percentage of all dependent children living in households in 2001.

Table 1: Percentage of dependent children living in households that are step-children, 2001

English region / UK country	*Percentage*
North East	5
North West	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	6
East Midlands	6
West Midlands	5
East	5
London	3
South East	5
South West	6
Wales	5
Scotland	4
Northern Ireland	2

Unemployment: Sevenoaks

Michael Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged 16 to 24 years were out of work for more than 12 months in Sevenoaks constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [49249]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged 16-24 years were out of work for more than 12 months in Sevenoaks constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. (49249)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, due to sample size estimates of unemployment for the requested duration and geography are not available. As an alternative we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for the Sevenoaks constituency.

There were 15 people aged 16-24 resident in Sevenoaks constituency in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for over 12 months in February 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for future funding of *(a)* the vinvolved team Tees Valley, *(b)* Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and *(c)* youth volunteering nationally. [48826]

Mr Hurd: Funding for the vinvolved programme comes to an end on 31 March 2011.

New measures to support volunteering were announced in the recent "Giving Green Paper". New funding streams will provide vital support to both volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations alike.

We are providing support to young people to become involved in volunteering through National Citizen Service. The pilot delivery areas for NCS have been announced and further details can be found on Directgov webpages at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Workandcareers/Workexperienceandvolunteering/NationalCitizenService/DG_WP194525

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Finance

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding the 20 largest regularly-funded organisations received from Arts Council England in 2009-10. [48272]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England has supplied the following table showing the 20 largest regularly funded organisations that received funding in 2009-10:

	Organisation	*2009-10 (£)*
1	Royal Opera House	27,689,378
2	Southbank Centre Limited	20,257,441
3	Royal National Theatre	19,220,748
4	English National Opera Ltd	17,951,274
5	Royal Shakespeare Company	15,589,527
6	Opera North	9,654,778
7	Birmingham Royal Ballet	7,987,146
8	English National Ballet	6,714,474
9	Welsh National Opera Ltd	6,616,525
10	Arts and Business Ltd	4,000,000
11	North Music Trust	3,700,184
12	Crafts Council	2,808,584
13	Northern Ballet Theatre	2,765,183
14	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra	2,669,944
15	Royal Exchange Theatre	2,437,162
16	Sadler's Wells Trust Ltd	2,375,916
17	London Symphony Orchestra	2,305,427
18	City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	2,279,289
19	English Stage Company Ltd	2,248,747
20	Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts	2,222,644
Total	—	161,494,371

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England allocated per head of population in the London borough of Bexley in the last period for which figures are available. [48596]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England estimates spend at £0.38 per head in the London borough of Bexley, from £33,440 in grants for the arts awards in 2009-10.

Additionally, a number of organisations funded by the Arts Council tour their work in the constituency, though their funding is not represented in the figure above.

Arts: Public Expenditure

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the change in the level of funds received by *(a)* arts, *(b)* sport and *(c)* heritage causes as a result of the implementation of his planned changes to the distribution of National Lottery funds over the comprehensive spending review period. [49212]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The first phase of the Lottery Share change takes effect on 1 April 2011, when the shares for arts, heritage and sport will increase from the current 16.66% of new income each to 18%. This should mean that there will be approximately £20 million of additional income for each of the arts, sports and heritage good causes for that year.

In April 2012 the arts, heritage and sport shares will increase to 20%, meaning that they should all each receive about £50 million a year as shown in the following table.

			£ million
	Arts	*Heritage*	*Sport*
2011-12	19.64	19.64	19.64
2012-13	51.0	51.0	51.0
2013-14	52.8	52.8	52.8

These figures are based on the latest (September 2010) lottery income projections and are not guaranteed.

Big Lottery Fund

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what data his Department collects in respect of the geographic diversity of Big Lottery Fund applicants. [48598]

John Penrose: The Department does not collect any data relating to applications received by the Big Lottery Fund or any other Lottery distributing body. The Lottery distributors make their funding decisions independently of the Department and Government and against their own published criteria for Lottery funding programmes and projects.

British Film Industry

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the commercial production sector to the British film industry. [48830]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have not made a recent assessment of the contribution of the commercial production sector to the British Film Industry. However, as the Executive body for film in the UK, the UK Film Council has assessed the contribution of inward investment feature films to the UK economy as being £752.7 million in 2009.

BSkyB and News Corporation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has received notification of any proposed application for judicial review of his decision not to refer the proposed News Corporation acquisition of BSkyB to the Competition Commission. [49511]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have not yet made a final decision on whether or not to refer the proposed News Corporation acquisition of BSkyB to the Competition Commission. I am currently considering the responses to the consultation on the Undertakings offered by News Corporation which closed on 21 March, and will make a statement in due course. At this stage, I have received no such notification.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the likely extent of broadband coverage in the UK in each of the next 10 years. [48009]

Mr Vaizey: The coalition Government are committed to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2Mbps and achieve the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015; £530 million has been allocated by the Government to support these efforts.

Charities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48288]

John Penrose: The Department provides regular funding to its arm's length bodies registered as charities or exempt charities through grant in aid and strategic commissioning.

Payments made to these bodies in financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 and funding allocated to these bodies for the next four years are set out in the table.

£000

	Funding allocated		*Plans*			
	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
NDPB's with exempt charity status						
British Library	109,464	106,308	107,473	96,286	93,544	90,076
British Museum	48,348	50,343	53,664	44,016	43,393	43,267
Imperial War Museum	24,163	23,910	21,706	21,436	21,239	21,273
National Gallery	27,287	28,201	26,744	26,320	25,980	25,911
National Maritime Museum	19,240	19,002	17,058	16,848	16,693	16,723
National Museum of Science and Industry	40,608	40,153	37,582	37,026	36,602	36,596
National Museums Liverpool	23,463	23,712	21,875	21,561	21,323	21,327
National Portrait Gallery	7,744	7,577	7,398	7,277	7,183	7,172
Natural History Museum	51,186	48,586	46,482	45,760	45,204	45,172
Tate Gallery	55,987	55,429	34,605	34,912	34,837	33,441
The Royal Armouries	8,474	8,645	7,901	7,773	7,673	7,662
Victoria and Albert Museum	44,761	44,318	41,355	40,705	40,203	40,167
Wallace Collection	4,301	4,212	2,983	2,946	2,918	2,922
Registered charities						
Arts Council England	451,964	448,751	387,728	359,179	351,620	349,393
Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust	850	291	278	268	260	256
Churches Conservation Trust	3,162	3,005	2,926	2,828	2,743	2,695
Design Museum	425	424	328	257	202	163
Geffrye Museum	1,791	1,773	1,674	1,645	1,621	1,616
Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College	1,500	1,455	1,388	1,342	1,301	1,278
Horniman Museum	4,566	4,518	4,275	4,199	4,139	4,127
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	4,987	5,612	3,998	3,927	3,871	3,860
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	4,015	15,004	6,526	3,271	3,354	3,441

£000

	Funding allocated			*Plans*		
	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
National Film and Television School	3059	3,038	2,904	2,857	2,822	2,819
National Football Museum	105	101	—	—	—	—
National Foundation for Youth Music	333	322	—	—	—	—
Media Trust	334	323	—	—	—	—
Sir John Soane's Museum	1,181	1,169	1,130	1,111	1,096	1,094

The figures allocated to these bodies for the next four years are fixed. Funding after 2014-15 has not yet been determined.

Payments made to these bodies in financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09 can be found in the Department's published resource accounts at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/our_annual_report/6253.aspx

Data exclude one-off grants under grant programmes for which both charitable and non-charitable bodies are eligible.

Copyright

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what account he took of the requirements of the Authorisation Directive before laying before Parliament the Online Infringement of Copyright (Initial Obligations) (Sharing of Cost) Order 2011. [49507]

Mr Vaizey: The Government took care to ensure that the statutory instrument properly complied with all relevant legislation, both European and domestic, before it was laid. There has been an exchange of correspondence with the European Commission on how the instrument sits with the Authorisation Directive, and we remain confident that full account has been taken of the UK's obligations under the directive.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many events and visits outside London *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department has undertaken in an official capacity in each region since his appointment. [48797]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* The number of events and visits in regions outside of London each Minister and I have taken in an official capacity can be found in the following table.

	Secretary of State	*Minister for Sports and Olympics*	*Minister for Tourism and Heritage*	*Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries*
East Midlands	1	2	—	2
East of England	2	2	3	1
North East England	1	—	—	—
North West England	1	2	3	3
South East England	2	4	7	1
South West England	2	—	4	—
West Midlands	3	1	2	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	3	3	1

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what non-executive appointments he has made to his Department's board since May 2010; and what the selection process was for each such appointment. [49211]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have made the following non-executive appointments to the Departmental Board since May: David Verey (the lead non-Executive) and Peter Bazalgette. Lord Coe is invited to attend DCMS Board meetings in his position as Chair of LOCOG.

David Verey was appointed following a cross-Whitehall exercise run by Lord Browne's team in Cabinet Office.

Peter Bazalgette was appointed in January 2011 by me, following an open process (job advert, shortlist and interview) run by DCMS.

Dr Tracy Long continues her appointment as a Non-Executive member; she was appointed in September 2009 following an open process run by DCMS.

Film

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of the filmed commercial production sector. [48831]

Mr Vaizey: The closest assessment we have related to this question comes from the Oxford Economics 2010 report, which states that overall, the core UK film industry contributed over £4.5 billion to UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2009, taking into account its multiplier impacts, and over £1.2 billion to the Exchequer (gross of tax relief and other fiscal support).

Olympic Delivery Authority: Enforcement Officers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many enforcement officers have been designated by the Olympic Delivery

Authority in each of the last four years; what his estimate is of the number to be so designated; and if he will make a statement. [48526]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 23 March 2011]*: To date no enforcement officers have been designated by the Olympic Delivery Authority to enforce the advertising and trading regulations. The requirements are still being determined as the detailed planning continues to take place.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48213]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport recognises workplace stress as a health and safety issue and acknowledges the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors. The Department has a stress management policy in place which aims to ensure that all our staff and managers are provided with guidance on managing stress effectively. To support this policy, the Department also has an employee assistance programme which provides 24 hour telephone support and face to face counselling. In addition we also have an Occupational Health Provider that provides support and advice to the Department and staff on all health matters, including stress.

Television

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to announce the preferred candidate to provide the new national spine for local television. [49213]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: In response to the Local Media Action Plan Consultation which closes on 13 April 2011, over 20 expressions of interest to run a new network channel to support local services have been received. We are currently considering all responses to the Local Media Action Plan to help inform the final model for local TV. The formal award process is expected to begin this summer, supported by the necessary legislative changes.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48447]

John Penrose: The following items, with a value of over £100 and owned by the Department, have been taken without authorisation:

1 x Mobile Phone

2 x BlackBerry

All these items were reported stolen by members of staff, who were asked to report the theft to police in line with departmental policy.

All lost or stolen mobile phones or BlackBerry devices are disabled remotely.

Tourism: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the potential effect of the proposals in the Government Tourism Policy on *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London. [47981]

John Penrose: Over the next four years we are aiming to attract four million extra visitors to Britain adding £2 billion additional expenditure and creating 50,000 jobs through the new £100 million overseas tourism marketing fund.

In measurable terms we should increase the proportion of UK residents who holiday in the UK to match those who holiday abroad each year. For longer stays (four nights or more) this would mean 29% of travellers holidaying in Britain rather than just 20% today (creating 4.5 million extra domestic trips each year, £1.3 billion more spend and 26,000 new jobs). And if we can replicate this scale of improvement for shorter stays as well, we will create a further £750 million of spend and 11,000 new jobs.

I am afraid we have not done a breakdown of these figures for the London borough of Bexley and Greater London.

Video Recordings

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to announce his Department's consultation on amending the exemptions from regulation under Section 2 of the Video Recordings Act 1984. [49200]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport expects to make an announcement on the consultation by the summer.

SCOTLAND

HM Coastguard

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss the potential effects in Scotland of the outcome of the consultation on the future of HM Coastguard. [49215]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on a range of issues that affect Scotland. We will continue to maintain contact to ensure implications of the proposed reforms to HM Coastguard for Scotland are fully considered before any final decisions are taken.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has met representatives of *(a)* the Shetland Islands and *(b)* Stornoway to discuss the Government's consultation on the future of HM Coastguard. [49216]

Michael Moore: I held telephone calls with representatives of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Shetland Islands Council in February 2011 to discuss the Government's consultation on the modernisation of HM Coastguard. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland also met representatives of the Shetland Islands and Stornoway on 16 March 2011. The consultation period has been extended by six weeks until 5 May 2011 and contact with interested parties will be maintained to ensure that implications for Scotland are captured fully.

Members

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which hon. Members are included in his classification of *(a)* Scottish MPs and *(b)* hon. Members with an interest in Scottish affairs in correspondence sent to hon. Members by his office. [49510]

David Mundell: Scottish MPs for this purpose are MPs with a Scottish constituency. Hon. Members with an interest in Scottish affairs for this purpose are members of the Scottish Affairs Committee with constituencies outwith Scotland and MPs who have otherwise intimated a specific interest in Scotland.

Natural Gas

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he plans to have with representatives of *(a)* Scottish Gas, *(b)* Scottish Power and *(c)* Scottish and Southern Energy following the publication of Ofgem's review of competition in the energy sector. [49217]

Michael Moore: I have met these companies as well as other generators to discuss a variety of issues and will continue to do so.

Public Expenditure

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Ministers in the Scottish Government on the closure of the end year flexibility scheme. [49214]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a wide range of issues. I also have regular discussions with Scottish Government Ministers. The Government's priority is to deal with the deficit, and the end-year flexibility system has led to accumulated stocks of around £20 billion which would further increase the deficit if they were spent. The Budget announced a new Budget Exchange system that will be introduced in 2011-12 to replace end-year flexibility. This will provide Departments and the devolved Administrations with flexibility to deal with slippage in expenditure while strengthening spending control. But in recognition of the unique situation of the devolved Administrations, the Government have allowed Scotland to carry forward £130 million of agreed under-spend from this year into next.

Unemployment: Young People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on steps to reduce the level of youth unemployment in Scotland. [49178]

Michael Moore: The Government inherited rising youth unemployment and is committed to finding solutions to a problem which has persisted for many years. This is a matter I discuss regularly with other Ministers and relevant stakeholders. As I said in the House of Commons on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 894, I will invite employers, voluntary organisations and others to an event in Ayrshire in the next few weeks to discuss the legacy issues about youth unemployment and the Government's plans to get Scotland's young people back to work.

TREASURY

Anaerobic Digestion: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the provision of fiscal incentives for capital investment in farm-based anaerobic digestion; [48590]

(2) what his policy is on the provision of fiscal incentives for on-farm co-digestion of agricultural and urban waste; [48591]

(3) what fiscal incentives he plans to put in place to promote growth in the marine energy industry in each of the next four financial years. [49277]

Justine Greening: All taxes are kept under review and any decisions on tax are a matter for the Chancellor with announcements made at Budget. There have been no plans announced for specific tax reliefs for marine energy or anaerobic digestion.

Electricity supplied from these technologies is already exempt from the climate change levy as part of a wider exemption for renewables.

The Government also provide support for these technologies through the renewables obligation (RO), feed-in tariffs (FITs) and new renewable heat incentive (RHI).

Banks: EU Law

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department has gathered on the unauthorised *(a)* disclosure and *(b)* publication of document CRD3, Briefing on the Committee of European Banking Supervisors Guidance on Remuneration Provisions in Capital Requirements Directive. [46342]

Mr Hoban: It has been the policy of successive Administrations not to comment on the initiation, content, or outcome of internal leak investigations.

Boarding Schools

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department provides financial assistance to his officials for boarding school fees for their children. [48517]

Justine Greening: Officials are not entitled to claim school fees for their children except where a member of staff is being relocated and there is a period where two sets of fees are payable. There have been no staff relocations in recent years so no payments have been made.

Budget March 2011

Mr Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the dispatch box he used on 23 March 2011. [49505]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The dispatch box used on 23 March 2011 was a replacement for the famous 'Gladstone' Budget box which has been used by Chancellors since the 19th century. The Gladstone box was retired in 2010 to ensure its preservation for future generations, befitting its status as an important cultural artefact. The Budget box has become an iconic representation of the nation's cultural heritage, and the same traditional techniques used in the mid 19th century to create the Gladstone box were applied in the making of the replacement box, using current conservation grade materials. It was hand-made in the UK using traditional techniques and materials by a team of experts including carpenters, bookbinders, tool makers and engravers. The replacement box cost £4,300.

The cost reflects the craftsmanship and quality of materials which is in line with the relative costs paid by similar cultural institutions in preserving other valuable records of national heritage importance. By using the same techniques, we can expect the replacement box to last at least as long as the original and remain in use for 150 years or more, or an equivalent cost of £28.67 to the nation per year.

Details and cost of the box formed part of the media briefing pack which was used to brief journalists on the day of the Budget.

Charities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48273]

Justine Greening: The information relating to the last five years is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has not allocated any funding to charities in the next five years.

Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 851, on the Debt Relief (Development Countries) Act 2010, on what date he will bring forward proposals; and when he expects to lay before Parliament the necessary statutory instrument to make provisions in the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010, permanent. [49498]

Mr Hoban: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and the Act came into force on 8 June 2010. The legislation means that UK courts of law can no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty.

The sunset clause attached to this legislation means that the law will expire on 7 June 2011. The Government have reviewed the impact of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. Evidence suggests that the Act has had some benefit on heavily indebted poor countries and no evidence has been found of unintended adverse effects.

The Government have therefore decided to make the Act permanent and the draft order will be laid before Parliament on 28 March 2011.

Devolution

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether money from the Growth Fund in relation to credit unions has been allocated to devolved institutions under the provisions of the Barnett formula. [48493]

Danny Alexander: The Department for Work and Pensions has allocated funding of £73 million to expand and modernise third sector organisations (including those in Scotland and Wales) from within its own departmental allocation. It is not within their remit to fund provision in Northern Ireland. Credit unions are devolved in Northern Ireland.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the cost to the public purse of reducing duty on beers and ciders with an ABV of less than 2.5% and *(b)* the fiscal effects of extending this reduction to beers and ciders with an ABV of up to four%. [48183]

Justine Greening: The share of the beer and cider market below 2.5% ABV is less than 1% of total. As such the impact of reducing the rates on these products would be small, even if the reduction was large.

Reducing duty on beer and cider up to 4% would have a much larger effect as the market share is much greater. However, under EU directive 92/83, it is not possible to apply a reduced rate to beers above 2.8% AVC.

The UK hopes to achieve an increase in this threshold through current discussions on potential changes to the directive.

Excise Duties: Beer

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions in respect of rates of inflation his Department used in its calculation of the additional revenue forecast to accrue from the beer duty escalator for 2011-12; and if he will estimate the level at which beer duty would need to be set to achieve the same level of revenue using the most recent forecast of inflation for 2011-12. [48845]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 379W.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the relationship between beer duty rates, beer duty revenue and beer consumption in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [48848]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 379-81W.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects of freezing beer duty on the level of *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* revenue to the Exchequer. [48885]

Justine Greening: Estimates can be made from the direct effects of illustrative changes table published by HMRC at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

This shows that every 1% increase on duty is worth around £25 million.

Economic effects, such as employment are considered on the whole package of Budget measures by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR). Individual measures are not considered in isolation. However, as set out in its latest 'Economic and fiscal outlook', the OBR expects total employment to rise by 900,000 between 2010 and 2015.

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to support the adoption of EU Directives 92/83 and 92/84 on Alcohol Excise Duty to achieve *(a)* favourable tax treatment for beer and *(b)* an increase in the threshold below which a reduced rate of duty can be applied to beer. [49387]

Justine Greening: The rates of duty on different alcohol products are set as part of the Budget process. Existing legislation already allows for different treatment of different products.

EU Directive 92/83 allows for a reduced rate of duty to be applied to beers at or below 2.8% alcohol by volume (abv) in strength. The UK hopes to achieve an increase in this threshold through current discussions on potential changes to the directive.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce fiscal measures to assist charities and voluntary organisations to meet the cost of fuel. [47776]

Justine Greening: Charitable organisations are free to pay volunteer drivers mileage payments through the approved mileage allowance payments scheme which is intended to cover motoring costs. Budget 2011 increases the payments scheme rates from 6 April 2011 to 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter.

Volunteer driving can involve the carriage of passengers to essential appointments such as at hospitals or local doctors' surgeries. Budget 2011 extends the payments scheme's existing 5p per mile passenger payment to volunteer drivers.

Excise Duties: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on fuel duty differentials for liquid petroleum gas. [49526]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor routinely discusses a range of issues with European counterparts.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal incentives to promote the use of diesel-hybrid vehicles he is considering. [47845]

Justine Greening: No new additional incentives were announced at Budget 2011.

However, the available incentives include the alternative fuel rates of vehicle excise duty for cars registered from 1 March 2001 which offer a £10 discount for cars that feature a hybrid fuel-electric powertrain.

A hybrid fuel-electric powertrain may also help to lower a car's per kilometre carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore the lower vehicle excise duty rates for cars with reduced carbon dioxide emissions may provide an additional incentive.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* assess the likely effect on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme of proposed (i) domestic and (ii) European reforms to the financial services sector and *(b)* initiate a consultation on reforms to the funding of the Scheme. [48996]

Mr Hoban: The Government published a consultation paper, 'A new approach to financial regulation: building a stronger system', in February 2011. This proposed changes to the statutory framework for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to reflect that the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the rule-making body for the FSCS, will be replaced by two new regulators, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority. The consultation closes on 14 April. This does not propose any changes to the funding structure of the FSCS.

The Government submit explanatory memoranda on all EU proposals for parliamentary scrutiny. The Government's view of the proposals to amend the Deposit Guarantee Schemes and Investor Compensation Schemes directives can be found in explanatory memoranda 12386/10 dated 12 September 2010 and 12346/10 dated 17 September 2010, which remain under scrutiny by the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee.

As the rule-making body for FSCS funding, the FSA announced a comprehensive review of the FSCS funding model in 2009. Formal consultation has been temporarily postponed due to the ongoing changes to the domestic and European regulatory architecture.

The FSA will restart their public consultation in due course.

Income Tax: Older Workers

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many men and how many women over the state pension age paid tax on income from employment in the latest period for which figures are available. [49245]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs estimate that there are 1.83 million taxpayers in 2010-11 with pay from employment or self-employment income who are above the state pension age, of which 0.83 million are female and 1.0 million are male.

Estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast 2010.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on economic growth of the ending of the holiday period for empty property rates. [48822]

Mr Gauke: The Government have balanced the ability to take action on empty property relief (EPR) and the support it would offer businesses against the costs involved, targeted support that we have already provided on business rates and the overriding need to reduce public expenditure and support the economy generally by reducing the deficit. Taking these matters into consideration the Government have concluded that extending the temporary EPR measure is unaffordable; however the Government keep all taxes under review.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total savings to the public purse as a result of ending the *(a)* health in pregnancy grant and *(b)* baby element of the child tax credit in 2010-11. [49248]

Mr Gauke: Provision of the health in pregnancy grant ended in January 2010, while provision of the baby element of tax credits is due to end in April 2011.

The savings to the Exchequer from ending the health in pregnancy grant in 2010-11, as published in the June Budget document, is £40 million.

The savings to the Exchequer from ending the baby element of child tax credit in 2011-12, as published in the June Budget document, is £295 million.

More information can be found at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Private Sector

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he issues to local authorities on obtaining savings from contractual requirements on outsourced services undertaken by the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [49512]

Danny Alexander: It is for individual local authorities to determine if and how they obtain savings through outsourcing. The Government want to remove barriers to innovation and diversity of supply, which is why the Government have recently revoked the local authority two-tier code.

To help promote a level playing field, Government will shortly issue minimal, light-touch Best Value guidance to local authorities underlining the role of small businesses and third sector organisations.

In addition, Government support the Local Government Group's Local Productivity Programme. That programme is helping to identify opportunities to enhance the productivity and value for money from services. Further details are available at:

http://local.gov.uk/lgv2/core/page.do?pageId=579930

Public Bodies: Grants

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues on the treatment of grant in aid given to a public body sponsored by a Government Department as money owed to central Government in the public body's accounts. [49420]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury issues guidance on the accounting treatment of grant in aid through the Government Financial Reporting Manual. The manual contains specific guidance for those public bodies to which it applies on how to account for grant in aid received from a sponsoring Department.

The Treasury also publishes Managing Public Money, which sets out the main principles for dealing with resources used by public sector organisations in the UK. This document sets out how Government Departments should arrange and control grants (including grants in aid) to third parties.

Public Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of recent trends in the level of Government debt. [49075]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its March 2011 'Economic and fiscal outlook' on 23 March 2011. This includes the OBR's assessment of public sector net debt and is available here:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook-march.html

Tax Allowances

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the distributional effect of tax reliefs and allowances relating to *(a)* pensions and *(b)* individual savings accounts by income group decile. [48832]

Mr Hoban: HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data on the income decile breakdown of tax relief and allowances in respect of pensions and individual savings accounts (ISAs).

Tobacco: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on demand for cigarettes of trends in the price of cigarettes. [48608]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs estimates that a 1% increase in prices results in a 1.05% decrease in consumption of duty paid cigarettes. These results are published in the following technical paper:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/cig-consumption-uk.pdf

VAT

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the Exchequer of low value consignment relief as it applied to value added tax was in each of the last four financial years. [48914]

Mr Gauke: The cost to the Exchequer of low value consignment relief, based on a constant 17.5% standard rate of VAT, would be as follows:

Loss of VAT

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	95
2007-08	105
2008-09	135
2009-10	140

In practice the actual cost would be slightly different from these figures reflecting the temporary cut in the standard rate of VAT.

Welfare Tax Credits: Wolverhampton

Mr McFadden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Wolverhampton South East constituency are in receipt of tax credits. [48888]

Mr Gauke: At December 2010 there were 11,300 households in receipt of tax credits in Wolverhampton South East constituency.

The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-dec2010.pdf

WORK AND PENSIONS

Welfare Reform Bill

14. **Mr Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [49051]

Mr Duncan Smith: Ministers and officials in my Department have had substantial engagement with both representative groups and customers of the current benefit system on the provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill, and continue to do so.

These discussions have included members of disabled people's organisations, housing groups, business bodies, prominent think-tanks, family and child care groups.

In addition, the Government have consulted formally on a number of measures included in the Welfare Reform Bill, in particular universal credit and disability living allowance reform. We remain absolutely committed to continuing this consultative approach.

24. **Angie Bray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects on incentives to work of implementation of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [49061]

Mr Duncan Smith: I refer the hon. Lady to the reply I gave earlier today.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has undertaken on the effects of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on those diagnosed with cancer; what consultation he has had on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [47806]

Chris Grayling: There has been no specific assessment made of the effect of the Welfare Reform Bill on those diagnosed with cancer. We have, however, produced both Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments for all measures. These can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/index.shtml

In the case of those with cancer who are unable to work and have been placed in the Support Group, they will continue to receive targeted and unconditional support through Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), and will not be affected by our proposals to introduce a time limit. After one year, those in the Work Related Activity Group will still be able to apply for income-related ESA, which will act as a safety net for those without the means to support themselves.

Professor Malcolm Harrington is currently reviewing the assessment process for cancer patients and has asked Macmillan Cancer Support and other cancer charities for their input into this issue. We look forward to receiving his recommendations.

We consulted on the reform of Disability Living Allowance from 6 December 2010 to 18 February 2011. In total we received over 5,500 replies, including responses from Macmillan Cancer Support, Breast Cancer Care, CLIC Sargent and Myeloma UK. We are currently considering these and will be publishing a response shortly.

New Enterprise Allowance: Merseyside

23. **Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made on delivering New Enterprise Allowance support in Merseyside. [49060]

Chris Grayling: The New Enterprise Allowance was launched in Merseyside on 31 January. We have a partner to deliver the mentoring support and have appointed a provider for the NEA Loans Service.

The early signs are promising with nearly 400 referrals from Jobcentre Plus to the mentoring service, and over half of these are now working with a business mentor.

Community Care Grants

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British citizens have received the community care grant in each of the smallest geographic areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years. [49244]

Steve Webb: We are unable to provide information on whether the recipients of community care grants are either British or non-British citizens as this information is not captured on the Social Fund Computer System or other departmental data.

Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and each *(a)* agency and *(b)* non-departmental public body for which he is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years. [47428]

Chris Grayling: A figure relating solely to error is not available; I have therefore provided information about the total amount paid under the Department's financial redress scheme from which discretionary payments are made to customers, including payments made in relation to official error. The information is set out in the following table.

£

Organisation	*Status*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Jobcentre Plus	Agency	937,000	871,000	880,000	1,093,000	1,456,000
The Pensions Service	Agency	984,000	940,000	1,102,000	—	—
Disability and Carers Service	Agency	471,000	497,000	555,000	—	—
Pensions, Disability and Carers Service	Agency	—	—	—	3,102,000	3,850,000
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	NDPB	4,138,000	3,709,000	4,729,000	4,341,000	3,006,000
Pensions Ombudsman/Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman	NDPB	—	—	0	1,000	0
Health and Safety Executive	NDPB	1,000	0	3,000	4,000	0
Independent Living Fund	NDPB	2,000	0	0	3,000	1,000

Notes:

1. The amounts are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
2. On 1 April 2008 the Pensions Service merged with Disability and Carers Service to form the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.
3. No payments were made by Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board, Disability Employment Advisory Committee, Equality 2025, Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, National Employment Savings Trust, Pension Protection Fund, Remploy, Social Security Advisory Committee, The Pensions Advisory Service, The Pensions Regulator.
4. The Pensions Ombudsman/Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman have no records prior to 2007..

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on conferences since May 2010. [38526]

Chris Grayling: The total expenditure incurred by the Department on conferences for the period May 2010 to December 2010 is £2.1 million. 72% of this expenditure was incurred in the first quarter of the year before revised guidance was in place and to honour commitments already entered into. Compared to the same period May to December 2009 spend has reduced by approximately 80%.

The Department revised its internal policies and guidance in July 2010 with the clear intention of reducing costs. The use of an external venue for any business meeting, including conferences, is now exceptional and requires the advance approval of a member of the senior civil service.

Staff are discouraged from attending commercial conference events unless there is a specific requirement or business need for them to do so.

Disability Living Allowance

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to the outcomes of his Department's consultation on disability living allowance. [49038]

Maria Miller: The Government plan to replace DLA with a new cash benefit—personal independence payment—to be introduced in 2013-14. The Department received over 5,000 individual responses and 500 responses from organisations to the public consultation on our proposals, which took place between 5 December 2010 and 18 February 2011. We are considering these responses and will publish our response shortly.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people diagnosed with *(a)* cancer and *(b)* a stroke-related condition are in receipt of disability living allowance. [49631]

Maria Miller: The information is in the following table.

Number of people in receipt of disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is malignant disease or stroke-related conditions—August 2010

	Number
All	3,176,200
Malignant disease	83,700
Stroke-related conditions	111,600

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Stroke-related conditions include the following Neurological Diseases : 'G01'—Cerebrovascular accident (stroke), 'G02'—Transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs), 'G05'—Cerebrovascular disease—Other; and the psychiatric disorder 'F62'—Cognitive disorder due to stroke.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample

Disability Living Allowance: Autism

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints Atos Healthcare has received in relation to assessments of eligibility for disability living allowance in the last period for which figures are available; and how many such complaints related to assessments in respect of autism and related conditions. [48049]

Chris Grayling: The figures shown are the number of complaints received nationally in respect of disability living allowance assessments conducted by Atos Healthcare. This covers a wide spectrum of complaint issues and includes administrative activities such as appointment booking, aspects of the arrangements and conducting of the assessment.

Benefit entitlement is determined by DWP Decision Makers, not Atos Healthcare Professionals. In order to make a decision on benefit entitlement the Decision Maker considers all the available evidence not just the reports received from Atos Healthcare. Further evidence may include the customer's 'self assessment', reports from GPs, hospital doctors and other health care professionals.

The number of complaints (and assessments undertaken) Atos Healthcare have received relating to the service to customers claiming disability living allowance for the last two years is as follows:

Quarter ending	*Number of complaints*	*Completed DLA assessments*
February 2011	148	10,109
November 2010	161	12,509
August 2010	187	14,121
May 2010	168	14,325
February 2010	135	13,178
November 2009	139	13,504
August 2009	123	13,781
May 2009	118	12,489

Statistics relating to the customer's medical condition are not collated.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 739W, on disability living allowance, what provision will be made to maintain the incomes of existing child claimants of disability living allowance following the introduction of personal independence payments. [48906]

Maria Miller: In my answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 739W, I explained that we want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for children. We will not consider extending personal independence payment to new claims from children or to children already receiving DLA until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working-age people. This means that, following the introduction of personal independence payment for working-age individuals, DLA will continue to be paid to new and existing child claimants, provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. We are currently considering responses to the disability living allowance reform public consultation on this issue and will provide further details of our proposals when we publish the Government response shortly.

Employment and Support Allowance: Cancer

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average length of claim made by recipients of employment and support allowance who were cancer patients in receipt of oral chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment was in each of the last four financial years; [47018]

(2) how many claimants of employment and support allowance were cancer patients in receipt of oral chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment in each of the last two years; how much his Department paid to such persons in employment and support allowance in each such year; and if he will estimate *(a)* the number of such claimants and *(b)* the expenditure on them in employment and support allowance in each of the next two years; [47020]

(3) if he will estimate the potential savings to his Department arising from implementation of his proposals on employment and support allowance in respect of cancer patients in receipt of oral chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment in each of the next two years. [47021]

Maria Miller: The National Statistics datasets on employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants do not contain any information about whether cancer patients are receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

Eligibility for ESA is based on an individual's functional capacity. Savings are not defined on the basis of a particular condition.

For information, statistics on ESA claimants by duration of claim and medical condition data are available and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Also, official statistics on ESA work capability assessments are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

These include the numbers of claimants who automatically qualify for the Support Group as they are receiving certain types of chemotherapy.

In March 2010 we published a Department-led review of the work capability assessment (WCA). This made some recommendations for improving the WCA including making greater provision for individuals awaiting or in between courses of chemotherapy, taking greater account of how an individual has adapted to their condition and simplifying some of the descriptors. We have now laid Regulations to ensure these changes will come into force on 28 March 2011.

Professor Malcolm Harrington has asked Macmillan Cancer Support to look into how the WCA assesses people with cancer, including whether people receiving oral chemotherapy should be placed directly into the Support Group. Macmillan are making good progress with this work and will make recommendations to Professor Harrington in the spring.

Employment: Wolverhampton

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of Wolverhampton South East constituency were employed in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* the latest month for which figures are available. [48889]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of the working age population of Wolverhampton South East constituency was employed in (a) May 1997 and (b) the latest month for which figures are available. (48889)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency changed to new boundaries at the 2010 general election. Figures for the current Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency are only available from 2004.

Table 1 shows the number of persons in employment resident in Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency for the 12 month period ending in December 2004 and for June 2010 from the APS, this is the latest estimate for which figures are available. Proportions have been calculated using an age 16-64 denominator.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] in employment resident in Wolverhampton South East parliamentary constituency

	Thousand	Rate
December 2004	36	66.8
June 2010	***33	57.1

[1] Persons aged 16 to 64

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Housing Benefit

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stretford and Urmston (Kate Green) of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 123-4W, on housing benefit, for what reasons his Department decided to cap housing benefit payments for both couple and lone parent households at £500 per week. [49624]

Chris Grayling: From 2013, we are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so that households on out of work benefits will no longer receive more in welfare payments than the average weekly wage for working households. We estimate that in 2013, average earnings after tax and national insurance contributions for working households will be around £500 a week.

New Deal Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people entered the flexible new deal in *(a)* October, *(b)* November and *(c)* December 2009; and in each such case how many have secured (i) short term and (ii) sustained employment. [44420]

Chris Grayling: The number of starts (minus re-starts) on the flexible new deal during the period October, November and December 2009 is as follows:

	Starts (net of starts from re-referral)
October 2009	9,520
November 2009	16,340
December 2009	13,330

Notes:

1. Starts figures do not include starts from second or subsequent referrals to the same provider.
2. Figures for starts are refreshed each month and will increase over time.
3. Please see FND information note available on the following website for further information and definitions: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paae=ddfnd

Source:

Provider, Referrals and Payment (PRaP) management information system.

We are currently not able to track individual cohorts to establish the proportions/volumes from each that gained short/sustained employment.

Since the start of FND there have been 338,380 starts (net of starts from re-referrals) 38,700 short job outcomes and 18,390 sustained job outcomes.

Occupational Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage employers to provide pensions for their staff. [49033]

Steve Webb: The Government are committed to reinvigorate occupational pensions and to encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees.

Starting from 2012, a new duty will be introduced requiring all employers to automatically enrol eligible workers into a qualifying workplace pension scheme. Automatic enrolment will mean that the employee will have to actively choose not to participate in pension savings.

We are also taking action to simplify the rules and regulations relating to existing occupational pensions.

We have recently put in place simplified disclosure of information regulations enabling greater use of electronic communications which came into force on 1 December 2010.

The rules on employer debt to pension schemes are being reviewed to make it easier for companies to restructure while protecting members' pensions. The aim is to introduce these changes in October 2011, following public consultation.

We are also ending contracting out from the state additional pension for defined contribution pension schemes from April 2012. This will simplify pension choices for individuals and administration for schemes and employers who sponsor them.

Older Workers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the workforce in the UK is over 60 years of age. [49036]

Steve Webb: In the UK as at Q4 2010, according to the Labour Force Statistics (LFS) those over 60 represented 8.6% of all those in employment above the age of 16.

Pensioners

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to assist pensioners in the current economic climate. [49034]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 525W.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to assist pensioners in reducing their household bills. [49035]

Steve Webb: We worked closely with the Department for Energy and Climate Change and energy suppliers to deliver an £80 rebate off electricity bills last year. The rebate, paid under the Energy Rebate Scheme, went to pensioners aged 70 and over receiving only the guarantee credit element of pension credit.

Following this trial of data sharing with energy suppliers, we are proposing that energy suppliers extend the rebate to a wider group of pensioners as part of the Warm Home Discount scheme. The rebate would be at least £120 a year. The first data matching exercise under this scheme is planned for winter 2011/12, subject to the necessary regulations being approved by Parliament.

Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage people to pay into pension schemes. [49032]

Steve Webb: Our key measure to reinvigorate private pension saving is the workplace pension reforms—automatic enrolment into a workplace pension for employees, compulsory employer contributions and establishment of the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST).

Starting from October 2012 all employers will be required to automatically enrol their eligible workers into a qualifying pension scheme. We estimate that the reforms should lead to 5 to 8 million people newly saving or saving more for their retirement.

In addition the Government are exploring how pension saving might be made more attractive to people. For example, we are removing the requirement to annuitise at age 75 as part of the Finance Bill 2011, and we are continuing to consider options for improving take-up of the open market option for annuities.

We are also engaging in debates across the broader pensions community, and welcome initiatives such as the National Association of Pension Funds' Workplace Retirement Income Commission, which aims to develop consensus on how to improve and strengthen retirement savings.

Social Security Benefits: Hearing Impairment

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those claiming out-of-work benefits are deaf. [40693]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available for all benefits. Information on whether a claimant is deaf is not routinely recorded for all claimants.

Information is available on whether the main medical condition for incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants is "Other Hearing Loss", which includes deafness, and whether the main disabling condition for attendance allowance and disability living allowance claimants is deafness.

The information that is available is presented as follows:

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment support allowance (ESA) claimants, August 2010

	ESA	*IB/SDA*
All	563,980	2,082,570
"Other Hearing Loss"	940	5,720

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. For IB/SDA and ESA deafness is included under the disabling condition of "Other Hearing Loss".
3. To qualify for Incapacity Benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a Personal Capability Assessment. Under the employment and support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the Work Capability Assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the basis of "other hearing loss" would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Personal/Work Capability Assessment.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Attendance allowance (AA) cases in payment, August 2010

	Number
All	1,624,660
Deafness	8,530

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to AA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Disability living allowance (DLA) cases in payment, August 2010

	Number
All	3,176,200
Deafness	41,900

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5% WPLS

Notes:

DLA figures are from 5% sample data uprated to 100% proportions. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provides some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total by the application of a single rating factor therefore subtotals based on uprated 5% data may differ from 100% data because of sampling variation in the 5% sample.

Unemployment: Graduates

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many graduates aged 24 years or less were unemployed in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of such graduates who were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [48828]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many graduates aged 24 years or less were unemployed in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the proportion of such graduates who were in receipt of jobseekers allowance (48828).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for the UK from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

According to the LFS, there were 117,000 graduates aged 24 or under who were unemployed during the period October to December 2010. Of those, 34% reported that they were claiming unemployment related benefit.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of households entitled to help with child care costs under the universal credit on the basis of less than 16 hours work. [49516]

Maria Miller: The Secretary of State announced in the Second Reading of the Welfare Reform Bill that there would be an additional element in universal credit to support child care costs, and we will aim not to restrict it to those working more than 16 hours, but are considering how best to allocate support.

The precise number of households entitled to help with child care costs under universal credit who work fewer than 16 hours depends on the design of the additional element—namely the proportion of costs covered and the maximum limits.

We expect to announce further details during the course of the Bill.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of lone parents who *(a)* earn no more than the minimum wage, *(b)* receive up to (i) 60, (ii) 70 and (iii) 80% of child care costs and *(c)* work (A) 10, (B) 16, (C) 20 and (D) 30 hours per week who will receive more for working than being on benefits under his proposals for universal credit. [49517]

Maria Miller: The Secretary of State announced in the Second Reading of the Welfare Reform Bill that there would be an additional element in universal credit to support child care costs, and that at least the same amount of money will be invested in this as in the existing system, but he is taking further advice before deciding what rates to set.

The proportion of lone parents in each scenario that will have a higher income in work than out of work, will depend on the design of the additional element—namely the proportion of costs covered and the maximum limits.

We expect to announce further details during the course of the Bill.

Credit Unions: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much funding for the Growth Fund has been allocated to the Northern Ireland Executive over the comprehensive spending review period; and whether such funding is ring-fenced for the use of credit unions; [48167]

(2) whether the Northern Ireland Executive will receive a proportion of the £73 million allocated by his Department for the modernisation and growth of credit unions. [48168]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions have allocated funding of £73 million to expand and modernise third sector organisations from within its own departmental allocation. It is not within our remit to fund provision in Northern Ireland.

During April to September the Department will manage a feasibility study to examine the scope and the options for the modernisation and expansion of the sector.

Credit unions and other community financial institutions that already hold a contract with the Department will have the opportunity of extending those contracts, subject to selection criteria, during this time.

Following feasibility testing, decisions will be made on the way forward and a further announcement will be made.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has made to the UN and other international agencies on the illegal trade in animals and wildlife. [45416]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State spoke at the United Nations in September regarding biodiversity, although this did not cover illegal trade in animals and wildlife specifically.

I have held frequent meeting with NGO representatives and DEFRA officials to ensure that the strong positions held by the UK Government are understood across the NGO community.

DEFRA officials have been engaged in discussions with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Secretariat in preparing for the next CITES Standing Committee in August. Matters discussed include: measures to ensure the effective implementation of CITES, such as the introduction of electronic, permitting systems; internet trade; legislative implementation in the UK's overseas territories and Crown Dependencies; and the development of a suitable mechanism against which to assess the appropriateness of future elephant ivory sales.

Officials have also attended the Compliance Committee of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas where blue fin tuna fishing plans for 2011 were assessed to ensure that blue fin tuna will not be fished, and therefore traded, illegally.

Breed Societies

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the likely effects of establishing a single equine passport issuing organisation on income levels of breed societies. [43699]

Mr Paice: We are currently reconsidering the Government's requirements in respect of horse passports and associated data. A full assessment of the impact on DEFRA-approved breed societies and passport issuing organisations will be made before implementing any changes to the current system.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Carbon Trust on the eligibility criteria for the commercial loan scheme for energy efficiency and low carbon equipment in the agriculture sector. [48587]

Mr Paice: Government have no role in the Carbon Trust's recently announced commercial loan scheme. As such, the Secretary of State has had no discussions regarding eligibility criteria.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the nature of public goods which should be protected under pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy. [48838]

Mr Paice: The current pillar 2 of the CAP plays an important role in delivering non-market-distorting public goods through sustainable land management and support for the rural economy. Outcomes that are regarded as public goods and funded by Pillar 2 are those that are of clear benefit to the public across the EU, but would not be provided by the market.

The nature of these goods ranges from biodiversity outcomes to those actions that contribute to climate change mitigation. A reformed Common Agricultural Policy must promote the improved delivery of public goods.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [48840]

Mr Paice: Government Ministers meet regularly in Cabinet and Cabinet sub-Committee settings as well as bilaterally, to discuss the many important issues that the Government are dealing with, including reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on reform of *(a)* pillar 1 and *(b)* pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy. [48841]

Mr Paice: In a smaller overall Budget, future CAP expenditure must be founded on a twin-track approach, building competitiveness and so reducing reliance on subsidies, and enabling farmers to better deliver the environmental goods that the public demands.

Pillar 1 should become a transitional measure, as tools to encourage competitiveness and reduce farmers' reliance on subsidies are introduced and take effect.

We are committed to an increased focus on actions under pillar 2 providing public goods that the market cannot deliver and supporting improvements in competitiveness. Agri-environment schemes will continue to be a particular priority, supporting our commitment to being "The Greenest Government Ever".

Common Fisheries Policy

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings she has had on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. [47739]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister I have had discussions with a range of organisations and people about common fisheries policy (CFP) reform. This includes discussions with the EU Fisheries Commissioner, other member states and MEPs at the high level political meeting on discards on 1 March. I have also met representatives of the fishing industry—both large scale and under-10 metre fleets—MEPs, retailers, and non-governmental organisations.

I plan to have further discussions in pressing our case for radical reform of the CFP.

Departmental Hospitality

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48353]

Richard Benyon: The Department has not spent anything on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010.

Departmental Assets

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of her Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47418]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* No. Receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are not included in the Department's spending plans.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46579]

Richard Benyon: Details of special adviser numbers and paybands are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

The published information was released in conjunction with a written ministerial statement. It lists the names of special advisers in post at various times, including each special adviser's pay band, actual salary where this is £58,200 or higher, together with details of the special adviser's pay ranges for 2010-11, and the total pay bill cost of special advisers in the period.

The estimated pay bill includes pension costs. Details of pension arrangements are set out in the Model contract for Special Advisers.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of civil servants in her Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47068]

Richard Benyon: In line with HM Treasury policy, all staff are required to travel by standard class as the norm, unless good business reasons justify otherwise.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure public bodies sponsored by her Department incurred on redundancies in 2009-10; and what estimate has been made of equivalent expenditure in 2010-11. [43714]

Richard Benyon: Details for compulsory redundancy expenditure in public bodies sponsored by DEFRA in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out in the following table. The fourth column explains whether the cost is actual or projected for 2010-11. The public bodies recorded here are DEFRA's Executive non-departmental public bodies.

Please note that two NDPBs are in the process of closing at the moment—CRC and SDC—so the 2010-11 actual expenditure for those two bodies may be lower than the projected one as more employees may leave voluntarily or redeploy.

	Financial year		
Executive NDPB	*2009-10 (£)*	*2010-11 (£)*	*Comment*
Food From Britain	n/a	n/a	—
Environment Agency	483,964	635,329	Estimate
Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board	0	167,000	Estimate
Marine Management Organisation	0	0	—
Commission for Rural Communities	0	603,000	Estimate
Agricultural Wages Board	0	0	—
Agricultural Wages Committee	0	0	—
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	0	0	—
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	0	0	—
National Forest Company	0	0	—
Consumer Council for Water	0	0	—
Sea Fish	0	82,015	Actual
Sustainable Development Commission	29,030	714,904	Estimate

	Financial year		
Executive NDPB	*2009-10 (£)*	*2010-11 (£)*	*Comment*
Kew	0	16,601	Actual
Natural England	0	0	—

Fairtrade Initiative: Public Sector

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 46W, on the Fairtrade initiative: public sector, if she will request each procurement body to assess the cost to it of purchase of Fairtrade food and drink in order to inform the setting of Government buying standards; and if she will make a statement. [48582]

Mr Paice: We will shortly be introducing Government buying standards for food which include criteria to encourage the use of ethically traded food. The criteria are based on the results of our consultations, including on costs, with suppliers, public sector procurers as well as the Fairtrade Foundation. I do not intend to impose an additional cost-reporting burden on public bodies.

Fisheries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on the trends in the relative proportions of fish stocks *(a)* fished by capture and *(b)* sourced through aquaculture in the last 10 years; [48583]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on the trends in global prices for *(a)* fish, *(b)* fishmeal and *(c)* fish oil; [48584]

(3) what recent discussions she has had with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on trends in the global trade in fish; [48585]

(4) what recent discussions she has had with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on the effects on biodiversity in coral reef habitats of *(a)* blast fishing and *(b)* poison fishing; [48586]

(5) what discussions she has had in the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on the effects of the growth in aquaculture on *(a)* the use of fish oil, *(b)* the use of fishmeal and *(c)* biodiversity. [48839]

Richard Benyon: The UK participates at Food and Agriculture Organisation meetings on fisheries issues, most recently the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in February 2011. The UK takes regular note of the global trends in fisheries production and trade, including those highlighted in the FAO's report, "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010". The UK is also fully supportive of international initiatives to ensure fishing activity is conducted in the most environmentally sustainable way possible.

Fisheries: Public Consultation

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to consult fishing communities on the future of the fishing industry. [48271]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials and I have had extensive discussions with a range of people who are active in fishing communities about both reform of domestic fisheries management arrangements in England and the overarching EU common fisheries policy (CFP). Under both reforms, we are seeking to simplify and decentralise fisheries management, building in the right incentives for fishermen to operate sustainably and profitably in the future.

A public consultation on proposals for domestic fisheries management reform is due to be launched in early spring 2011. I also plan to have further discussions in pressing our case for radical reform of the CFP in the coming months.

Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the regulation of food and agricultural commodity markets. [48589]

Mr Paice: Food prices are ultimately governed by the market, not by Government. The UK Government are committed to promoting the better functioning of agricultural markets, which will help to mitigate future price spikes. We will work with France during their G20 presidency to improve the transparency and availability of global stocks data and tackle export restrictions.

Forestry Commission: Redundancy

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she expects any job reductions to arise in the Forestry Commission's offices in Edinburgh as a result of the proposed sale of parts of the public forest estate. [39034]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* All sales are suspended until we have considered the findings of the independent panel on forestry. The panel will advise on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England, on the role of the Forestry Commission, and on the role of the public forest estate.

Separately the Forestry Commission is consulting staff on new organisational structures in response to the 2010 spending review settlement. It will be for the Forestry Commission to decide where its staff should be based after the conclusion of this consultation.

National Wildlife Crime Unit

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department plans to provide to the National Wildlife Crime Unit in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [49531]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has confirmed funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit of £144,000 in 2011-12 and £136,000 in 2012-13.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department provided to the National Wildlife Crime Unit in each of the last four years; and what funding it plans to provide to the Unit in each of the next four years. [49025]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 24 March 2011]*: DEFRA provided £130,000 in 2007-08 and £150,000 in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

DEFRA has confirmed funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit of £144,000 in 2011-12 and £136,000 in 2012-13. No decision has been made as yet regarding funding beyond 2012-13.

Natural Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1140W, on shale gas, if Ministers in her Department will meet the Environment Agency to discuss its preparedness for on-shore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane using hydraulic fracturing. [48326]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials continue to hold informal discussions with the Environment Agency on preparedness for on-shore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane using hydraulic fracturing.

I understand that the Environment Agency submitted written evidence to the Energy and Climate Change Committee on 14 March 2011, and expects to provide oral evidence on 29 March 2011.

DEFRA Ministers do not expect to hold meetings with the Environment Agency to review the organisation's preparedness on the matter.

Nature Conservation: Mongolia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to share her Department's expertise on *(a)* wildlife conservation and *(b)* protection of the natural environment with the Government of Mongolia as it develops conservation laws. [49235]

Richard Benyon: We have not been approached to provide conservation advice to the Government of Mongolia to help develop its conservation laws.

However, the Department is funding some small-scale work through a Darwin Initiative scoping project towards developing a species conservation plan.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place in her Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48209]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has a workplace stress policy which outlines the Department's commitment to the prevention and management of, and rehabilitation from, workplace and other stress. Our policy also assists DEFRA meet its overall aims under the DEFRA Safety Policy and the Wellbeing Strategy and other HR policies such as sickness absence where relevant.

A number of reduction measures are in place including toolkits for risk assessments, guidance on prevention strategies, and learning and development such as leadership and managing change etc. We also encourage use of the HSE's managers competency toolkit and have a separate wellbeing strategy.

Assistance to staff diagnosed with stress is primarily provided following early referral to our occupational health service. We also have an independent employee assistance programme available to staff for the provision of counselling—both via the telephone and face to face where required.

Water

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the amount of water used in the food supply chain. [49266]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to determine how this can best be done. Through WRAP, DEFRA supports the work of the Federation House Commitment, which aims to help reduce overall water use across the national food and drink industry by 20% by 2020.

Over the next three years, WRAP will also be looking at how products are designed, produced, sold and used, and at extending the lifetime of products, all of which affect the food supply chain.

JUSTICE

Acklington and Castington Prisons

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital costs of and *(b)* potential savings arising from building a single perimeter fence and gate block as part of the merger of HMP Acklington and HMP Castington; and what assessment he has made of the potential for using HMP Castington for prisoners in categories which need to be kept separately from those in HMP Acklington. [49087]

Mr Blunt: The capital costs of building a single perimeter fence and gate block as part of the merger of Acklington and Castington prisons are estimated to be £5.6 million.

This investment is part of a wider long-term savings strategy. Currently it is estimated that savings from the merger of the prisons will be around £1.79 million a year over 32 months. There is an additional one-off saving of £1.44 million by avoiding major maintenance projects on facilities that will become shared (i.e. kitchen and reception areas).

Acklington and Castington are both category C adult male prisons. Therefore there are no issues raised by merging the two prisons in respect of security categorisation.

Alternatives to Prison: Females

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull East of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 540-1W, on the Corston Report, if he will estimate the total level of funding for projects arising from the recommendations of the Corston Report from local commissioning arrangements in 2011-12. [49113]

Mr Blunt: Funding for the Women's Community Projects was a one-off grant and ends in April 2011. It has always been the aim to demonstrate the effectiveness of the projects in diverting women from custody who do not pose a risk to the community and embed them as part of local commissioning arrangements.

The National Offender Management Service has identified funding to sustain community projects that are critical to diverting women away from custody and crime and a further announcement will be made shortly. The Ministry of Justice will continue to encourage the development of services for women in the criminal justice system that address their complex problems.

Civil Litigation Funding

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent progress has been made on his civil justice funding review Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales; [48863]

(2) what mechanism he proposes to establish to fund claimants' costs of medical reports in clinical negligence cases under his Department's civil justice funding review, Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales; [49018]

(3) what assessment he has made of the proposals of the Access to Justice Action Group on after-the-event insurance made in response to his Department's justice funding review, Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [49019]

Mr Djanogly: The closing date for our consultation on "Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations" was 14 February 2011. We have considered all the consultation responses, including from the Access to Justice Action Group, and we will set out the Government's response in due course.

Departmental Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49256]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The MOJ's accounting systems do not record grant expenditure in the way the question has asked for. However, the Department can issue the following information on cash grants given to local authorities in 2010-11.

Local authority	*Policy area*	*Grant amount (£)*
Borough of Waltham Forest	D.V.	20,000.00
Bury Community Safety Team	D.V.	20,000.00
London Borough of Camden	D.V.	20,000.00
North Tyneside Council	D.V.	20,000.00
Tameside MBC	D.V.	20,000.00
Warwickshire County Council	D.V.	20,000.00
Wiltshire Council	D.V.	20,000.00
Wiltshire Council	Coroners	142,874.10
Birmingham City Council	Elections	2,495.00
Brighton and Hove City Council	Elections	3,998.14
Chelmsford Borough Council	Elections	714.00
Coventry City Council	Elections	3,906.00
Derbyshire Dales District Council	Elections	2,625.00
Guildford Borough Council	Elections	1,951.98
Halton Borough Council	Elections	5,314.96
Herefordshire Council	Elections	703.00
High Peak Borough Council	Elections	1,228.24
Isle of Wight Council	Elections	2,298.00
Kettering Borough Council	Elections	3,000.00
Knowsley Borough Council	Elections	19,687.00
London Borough of Barnet	Elections	13,594.86
London Borough of Havering	Elections	604.50
New Forest District Council	Elections	1,346.77
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Elections	11,387.00
Oldham Council	Elections	4,312.50
Oldham Council	Elections	4,765.00
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames	Elections	15,361.02
Sedgemoor District Council	Elections	5,310.06
South Northamptonshire Council	Elections	2,129.84

Local authority	*Policy area*	*Grant amount (£)*
Thurrock Council	Elections	3,958.00
Torfaen County District Council	Elections	800.00
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council	Elections	9,399.66
Wandsworth Borough Council	Elections	717.58
Warrington Borough Council	Elections	6,024.00
Wychavon District Council	Elections	1,318.50
Babergh District Council	Elections	0.00
Barnsley MBC	Elections	825.00
Bristol City Council	Elections	1,212.00
Cannock Chase DC	Elections	528.00
Central Bedfordshire Council	Elections	1,205.00
Charnwood Borough Council	Elections	666.00
City of York	Elections	690.00
Corby Borough Council	Elections	532.00
Cornwall Council	Elections	5,354.00
Dartford Borough Council	Elections	528.00
Dumfries and Galloway VJB	Elections	2,170.00
East Lindsey District Council	Elections	1,421.00
East Northamptonshire DC	Elections	536.00
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	Elections	534.00
Fenland District Council	Elections	555.00
Hambleton District Council	Elections	572.00
Hastings Borough Council	Elections	577.00
Lancaster City Council	Elections	770.00
Leeds City Council	Elections	2,346.00
Lincoln District Council	Elections	737.00
London Borough of Croydon	Elections	1,129.00
London Borough of Ealing	Elections	877.00
London Borough of Hillingdon	Elections	572.00
London Borough of Hounslow	Elections	840.00
London Borough of Lewisham	Elections	939.00
Medway Council	Elections	779.00
Mole Valley District Council	Elections	531.00
North Dorset District Council	Elections	728.00
North Kesteven District Council	Elections	558.00
North Norfolk District Council	Elections	1,269.00
Pendel Borough Council	Elections	933.00
Selby District Council	Elections	535.00
Shepway District Council	Elections	804.00
Slough District Council	Elections	528.00
South Holland District Council	Elections	671.00
South Kesteven DC	Elections	616.00
South Lanarkshire Council	Elections	8,667.00
South Ribble Borough Council	Elections	529.00
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	Elections	704.00
Suffolk Coastal Council	Elections	528.00
Sunderland City Council	Elections	1,206.00
Tewkesbury Borough Council	Elections	746.00
Torbay Council	Elections	652.00
Torfaen County District Council	Elections	542.00
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council	Elections	1,109.00
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Elections	584.00
Uttlesford District Council	Elections	699.00
Warwick District Council	Elections	555.00
Wycombe District Council	Elections	666.00
Basildon DC	Elections	2,906.41
Bromsgrove District Council	Elections	2,637.00
Swindon Borough Council	Elections	9,192.30
Manchester City Council	LFI	117,420.00
Total		595,434.42

Note:
D.V. Domestic Violence: £140,000.00
Coroners: £142,874.10
Elections: £195,140.32
LFS Local Finance Incentives: £117,420.00

The MOJ will continue to fund work in combating domestic violence and has budgeted approximately £600,000 for 2011-12, however the exact figure is still to be finalised, as is the percentage going to local authorities rather than third sector partners. The MOJ is anticipating granting £125,000 to Wiltshire and Oxford county councils to pay towards coroners' costs for service personnel. The Ministry of Defence will also be making a grant to Wiltshire for this purpose. However, this amount may vary dependant on the level of fatal military incidents. Responsibility for elections-related grants has now transferred to the Cabinet Office. The funding budget for local finance incentives has yet to be finalised in light of the spending review 2010.

The MOJ's non-departmental public bodies, such as the Youth Justice Board and the probation trusts, also give grants to local authorities. However, it would incur disproportionate costs to collate all grants issued to local authorities by all the MOJ's arms length and non-departmental bodies.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales; [48669]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Public Guardian Board; [48670]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Magistrates' Courts Rule Committee; [48671]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Legal Services Commission; [48672]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Legal Services Ombudsman; [48673]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of HM Inspectorate of Court Administration; [48674]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Crown Court Rule Committee; [48675]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of Courts Boards; [48676]

(9) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the post and office of the Chief Coroner of England and Wales; [48677]

(10) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Administrative Justice and Tribunal Council; [48678]

(11) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the National Archives; [48766]

(12) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of Public Trustee; [48767]

(13) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the Parole Board of England and Wales; [48768]

(14) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of HM Land Registry; [48769]

(15) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Crown Prosecution Service and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office; [48809]

(16) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Advisory Council on Public Records and the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives; [48810]

(17) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Advisory Council on Historical Manuscripts and the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives; [48811]

(18) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace. [48812]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing the number and their cost to the taxpayer.

To take this work forward, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury worked closely with Departments to look at all public bodies to make decisions about whether the functions they carry out should continue. Where it was decided that a function should continue, we applied three tests in order to assess whether it should continue to be carried out by a public body:

does that body perform a technical function?

does it need to be politically impartial?

does it act independently to establish facts?

On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

For the Ministry of Justice, reductions from reform of the requested departmental public bodies have been estimated as follows:

Youth Justice Board: Work is ongoing to finalise plans and timing for reform of the YJB. However the current estimate of annual savings from abolition is £6 million by 2014-15.

The annual saving which will accrue from the abolition of the Public Guardian Board is estimated to be £0.1 million by 2014-15.

The Legal Services Commission estimates that by the end of 2014-15 an annual administrative saving of £8.4 million will be delivered from the change in status from NDPB to executive agency.

The annual saving which will accrue from the abolition of the Legal Services Ombudsman is estimated to be £ 1.1 million by 2014-15.

The annual saving which will accrue from the abolition of HM Inspectorate of Court Administration is estimated to be £1.7 million by 2014-15.

The annual saving which will accrue from the abolition of Courts Boards is £0.5 million by 2014-15.

The annual saving which will accrue from the abolition of the Administrative Justice and Tribunal Council is estimated to be £1.4 million by 2014-15.

The annual saving which will accrue from the merging of the Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace is estimated to be £1.4 million by 2014-15.

The Ministry estimated that no savings would arise from the abolition of the following bodies:

Crown Court Rule Committee;

Magistrates' Courts Rule Committee.

Chief Coroner of England and Wales: Although there are no immediate savings to be had from the abolition of the Chief Coroner, the long-term benefits are realised through non-implementation. It was anticipated to begin implementation from April 2012. The financial impact of full implementation of part one of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, which includes the post and office of the Chief Coroner, has been estimated at £10.9 million in set-up costs and £6.6 million in running costs. Therefore the intention is that the 'non-implementation' of the post and office of Chief Coroner before they are established will save this new expenditure in full.

There are no estimated savings for changes to The National Archives, Advisory Council on Historical Manuscripts and Advisory Council on Public Records. The changes in function to The National Archives and its advisory councils proposed through the Public Bodies Bill contain no financial implications. The rationale for these reforms is to place The National Archives, its chief executive and its advisory bodies on a statutory footing, enabling the Government to legally complete the changes that began with the establishment of The National Archives as an administrative entity in 2003.

Decisions have yet to be reached on reform/change of function of the following bodies and work is ongoing, consequently an estimate of savings is not yet available:

HM Land Registry;

Parole Board of England and Wales;

Public Trustee.

The merged Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office and Crown Prosecution Service is a non-ministerial department. Ministerial responsibility lies with the Attorney-General for England and Wales. The annual saving figure was £3.3 million by 2014-15.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49187]

Mr Djanogly: As at 24 March 2011, five civil servants in my Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since 1 April 2010. This figure does not include civil servants who have been offered early departure under the Ministry's ongoing Voluntary Early Departure Scheme, which provides the same terms as Voluntary Redundancy under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against decisions made on applications for employment and support allowance from residents of *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* Greater London are outstanding. [48597]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to provide the information which the hon. Member has requested. The most recent period for which statistics on 'live' employment and support allowance appeals have been published was up to 31 January 2011. These did not include a breakdown by geographical area. However, the figure for the United Kingdom as a whole was 87,700 appeals.

Family Justice Review

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department's Family Justice Review will address disparities in the way courts deal with residency and access requests for mothers and fathers; and when he expects the Review to report. [49427]

Mr Djanogly: Where both parents have parental responsibility for their child they are equal before the law. There is no presumption by the court that one parent is a better parent than the other and the court is required to approach these sensitive and difficult matters in an impartial and unbiased manner. In making decisions about contact and other arrangements for children, all judges and holders of judicial office must ensure that their work is free from improper discrimination on any grounds, including gender. Rather, the Children Act 1989 requires that the best interests of the child must be paramount in any decision taken that will affect them.

However, in order to ensure that children are able to have a meaningful relationship with both their parents following separation I have asked the Family Justice Review to examine how the positive involvement of both parents following separation should be supported. In particular, I have asked the panel to consider how contact with non-resident parents can be promoted where this is in the best interests of the child. The Family Justice Review will issue an interim report with recommendations for reform at the end of March and publish its final report in autumn this year.

Homicide: Convictions

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many murder convictions have been secured under the common law doctrine on joint enterprise in each of the last 30 years. [49495]

Mr Blunt: Data held on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database do not specify whether court proceedings in murder cases were brought under joint enterprise.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce his allocation of funding for the protection of adult victims of human trafficking. [49617]

Mr Blunt: This Government have announced an allocation of up to £2 million per year for the next two years for the provision of support services for adult victims of human trafficking. This is joint funded by both the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

Judiciary

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the *(a)* ethnic background and *(b)* gender of the judiciary in each year from 1997 to 2010. [49622]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Judges in post (excluding Tribunals) by women, and ethnic background, England and Wales, 1998 to 2010, as at 1 April

	Total number of judges	Women (percentage)	BAME (percentage)
2010	3,598	20.6	4.8
2009	3,602	19.4	4.5
2008	3,820	19.0	4.0
2007	3,545	18.7	3.5
2006	3,774	18.0	3.8
2005	3,794	16.9	2.9
2004	3,675	15.8	2.5
2003	3,656	14.9	2.2
2002	3,545	14.5	2.0
2001	3,535	14.1	1.9
2000	3,441	12.7	2.0
1999	3,312	11.2	1.7
1998	3,174	10.3	1.6

Source:
Historical data from Judicial Office website and archived websites of the Department for Constitutional Affairs

We are only able to provide comparative data for this period for courts based judiciary.

Since 2009, the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic figures were calculated as a percentage of those members of the judiciary who provided ethnicity data. Disclosure of ethnicity by judges is voluntary. Figures from 2009 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years as the data has been widened to include four new types of judicial post. Accurate figures for 1997 are not available.

http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/publications-and-reports/statistics/judges

http://www.dca.gov.uk/dept/depstrat.htm

Judiciary: Equal Opportunities

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure diversity in the judiciary. [49500]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government supports, in principle, the recommendations delivered by the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity in its February 2010 report. The recommendations seek to deliver speedier and sustained progress to a more diverse judiciary at every level and in all courts in England and Wales, without diminishing appointment on merit.

My noble Friend, Lord McNally, is a member of the Judicial Diversity Taskforce established to oversee the delivery of the Panel's recommendations. The taskforce met on Monday 14 March to review what has been achieved to date, and will publish its report on progress shortly.

Lancaster Castle Prison: Drugs

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Counselling Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare drug treatment scheme for prisoners at HMP Lancaster Castle; and if he will make a statement. [49170]

Mr Blunt: There has been no assessment into the effectiveness of the counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare (CARAT) services provided at HMP Lancaster Castle, however, effectiveness of CARATs as a whole is kept under review at a national level.

The performance of individual prison establishments in delivering CARAT services against key performance targets is audited as part of the National Offender Management Service performance management system. In May 2010, when it was last audited against those targets, the CARATs at HMP Lancaster were found to have exceeded the required standard.

Land Registry: Fraud

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation was paid by the Land Registry due to fraud in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [47886]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

In 2008-09, Land Registry paid indemnity claims amounting to £10,058,945.39, of which £5,072,113.43 was for claims relating to fraud or forgery.

In 2009-10, Land Registry paid indemnity claims amounting to £7,782,081.06, of which £4,947,650.06 was for claims relating to fraud or forgery.

All figures include legal costs and interest.

Magistrates

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the *(a)* ethnic background and *(b)* gender of justices of the peace in each year from 1997 to 2010. [49623]

Mr Djanogly: The information held is shown in the following table.

Percentage of serving justices of the peace by gender and ethnic background

Valid at	Number of JPs	Male (%)	Female (%)	White (%)	Mixed (%)	Asian (%)	Black (%)	Chinese (%)	Other (%)	Unknown (%)
1 January 1997	30,374	52.2	47.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 May 1997	—	—	—	89.3	—	1.9	1.5	—	0.7	—
1 January 1998	30,361	52.0	48.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 January 1999	30,260	51.0	49.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 January2000	30,308	51.0	49.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Percentage of serving justices of the peace by gender and ethnic background

Valid at	*Number of JPs*	*Male (%)*	*Female (%)*	*White (%)*	*Mixed (%)*	*Asian (%)*	*Black (%)*	*Chinese (%)*	*Other (%)*	*Unknown (%)*
1 April 2001	28,735	51.0	49.0	94.6	—	3.2	1.3	—	0.8	—
1 April 2002	24,526	50.7	49.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 April 2003	28,344	50.8	49.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 April 2004	28,029	50.6	49.4	93.47	—	3.26	2.17	—	0.83	0.27
1 April 2005	28,300	50.4	49.6	93.3	—	3.4	2.2	—	0.9	0.3
1 April 2006	28,865	50.3	49.7	92.78	0.02	3.36	2.25	0.13	0.94	0.52
1 April 2007	29,816	50.3	49.7	93.0	0.4	2.3	3.7	0.2	0.5	0.1
1 April 2008	29,419	49.9	50.1	92.7	0.4	2.4	3.8	0.2	0.5	0
1 April 2009	29,270	49.4	50.6	92.4	0.5	2.5	3.9	0.2	0.5	0
1 April 2010	28,607	49.2	50.8	92.3	0.5	2.5	3.9	0.2	0.5	0

Notes:

1. '—' = The data are either no longer held or were never held because they were not recorded in that format at that time, eg the ethnic categories Mixed and Chinese were not used before 2006.
2. From 1997 to 2000 data were recorded on a calendar year basis.
3. From 2001 onwards data were recorded on a financial year basis.
4. The ethnic origin information at 1 May 1997 was taken from the results of a survey of magistrates (excluding the Duchy of Lancaster). Non returns amounted to 6.6%.
5. Data for 1 April 2002 do not include the Duchy of Lancaster.
6. Data shown up to and including 2003 has been taken from the Judicial Appointments and Judicial Statistics publications.
7. Data shown from 2004 onwards has been taken from a centrally held database within MoJ.

Prison Accommodation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 553W, on prison accommodation, how many offenders held in a cell designed for one inmate shared it with *(a)* one other inmate and *(b)* two other inmates in each month of each year between 2001 and 2009. [48581]

Mr Blunt: The number of offenders held in a cell designed for one inmate who shared with one other inmate in each month of each year between 2001 and 2009 are set out in the following table in the column headed 'doubling'.

There are no data on cells designed for one inmate which are occupied by two or more inmates. There has been no recorded occurrence of this since March 1994. There is now a measure of 'trebling' which refers to cells designed for two which are occupied by three. Figures are not available prior to April 2002 and are shown from April 2002 to December 2009 in the table.

	Doubling	*Trebling*
2001		
January	11,165	[1]—
February	11,457	[1]—
March	11,487	[1]—
April	11,293	[1]—
May	11,814	[1]—
June	11,290	[1]—
July	12,052	[1]—
August	11,704	[1]—
September	12,270	[1]—
October	12,488	[1]—
November	12,143	[1]—
December	11,829	[1]—
2002		
January	12,602	[1]—
February	13,332	[1]—
March	13,401	[1]—
April	14,446	60
May	13,806	54
June	14,762	321
July	14,420	297
August	14,418	324
September	14,812	272
October	15,112	351
November	15,370	363
December	13,726	305
2003		
January	15,460	315
February	15,667	312
March	16,276	630
April	16,031	1,338
May	16,178	1,228
June	16,681	1,329
July	16,241	1,156
August	15,771	1,263
September	16,440	1,308
October	16,306	1,273
November	16,547	1,207
December	15,577	1,169
2004		
January	16,321	1,275
February	16,492	1,212
March	16,344	1,085
April	17,417	1,011
May	17,207	1,032
June	16,568	934
July	17,017	1,070
August	17,169	1,096
September	16,948	1,056
October	17,049	1,034
November	16,956	1,071
December	16,004	1,010
2005		
January	16,325	1,050
February	16,906	1,158
March	16,801	1,100
April	16,839	995

	Doubling	Trebling
May	16,828	993
June	16,673	1,058
July	17,248	1,014
August	17,043	1,002
September	17,366	1,026
October	17,406	1,038
November	17,142	1,074
December	15,868	975
2006		
January	16,533	984
February	16,800	976
March	16,897	997
April	16,892	1,026
May	17,744	1,041
June	17,775	1,074
July	18,153	1,057
August	17,948	1,045
September	18,230	1,110
October	18,563	1,074
November	18,564	1,090
December	18,463	1,056
2007		
January	18,345	1,203
February	18,761	1,145
March	18,841	1,164
April	18,391	1,161
May	18,593	1,143
June	18,797	1,119
July	18,860	1,224
August	19,150	1,186
September	19,828	1,268
October	19,671	909
November	19,441	1,231
December	18,302	984
2008		
January	18,868	1,304
February	19,478	1,207
March	19,272	1,197
April	19,743	1,263
May	19,710	1,227
June	19,682	1,230
July	19,910	1,265
August	19,477	1,270
September	19,428	1,264
October	19,434	1,266
November	19,026	1,188
December	17,912	1,131
2009		
January	18,212	1,124
February	18,504	1,131
March	18,793	874
April	18,702	993
May	18,760	1,076
June	18,914	1,154
July	19,275	1,076
August	19,725	1,198
September	19,082	1,147
October	19,404	1,131
November	19,470	1,041
December	18,602	952

[1] Not available

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Occupancy levels at individual prisons will vary according to the amount of capacity available overall, the number of prisoners and the way in which the prison population is managed.

We will continue to keep capacity requirements under review against current headroom in the estate, expected prison population levels and the impact of wider developments such as the Government's Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders'.

Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* ethnic background and *(b)* gender was of those serving custodial sentences in each year from 1997 to 2010. [49620]

Mr Blunt: Available information on the ethnic and gender breakdown of the sentenced custodial population in England and Wales from 1997 to 2009 (latest available) can be found in Tables A and B.

These figures are taken from published tables within the Statistical bulletins 'Prison Statistics, England and Wales' and the 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics, England and Wales', copies of which can be found in the Libraries of both Houses.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table A: Population in prison establishments [1] under an immediate custodial sentence by ethnic group[2] and sex, as at 30 June 1997-2002, and at 28 February 2003

Number of persons

	June 1997			June 1998			June 1999			June 2000		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Total	46,611	2,063	48,674	49,793	2,366	52,159	48,862	2,431	51,293	50,434	2,659	53,093
White	38,611	1,542	40,153	41,130	1,778	42,908	40,154	1,790	41,944	41,502	1,995	43,497
Black	5,415	419	5,834	5,775	452	6,227	5,726	503	6,229	5,903	519	6,422
South Asian	1,373	19	1,392	1,555	26	1,581	1,495	26	1,521	1,453	29	1,482
Chinese and Other	1,170	83	1,253	1,312	110	1,422	1,461	109	1,570	1,548	115	1,663
Unrecorded	42	0	42	21	0	21	26	3	29	28	1	29

Number of persons

	June 2001			June 2002			February 2003		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	51,272	2,897	54,169	53,936	3,336	57,272	54,886	3,304	58,190
White	41,594	2,126	43,720	42,704	2,281	44,985	42,638	2,248	44,886
Black	6,364	614	6,978	7,564	869	8,433	8,165	876	9,041
South Asian	1,501	28	1,529	1,676	30	1,706	1,763	32	1,795
Chinese and Other	1,768	126	1,894	1,940	153	2,093	2,244	147	2,391
Unrecorded	44	2	46	53	3	56	77	1	78

[1] Excludes police cells.

[2] Ethnicity categories based on 1991 census codes.

Note:

Data within this table are taken from the Home Office publication "Prison Statistics, England and Wales" 1997 to 2003. Table 6.4 refer.

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table B: Population in prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence by ethnic group[2] and sex, as at 30 June 2004-09

Number of persons

	June 2004			June 2005			June 2006		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	58,703	3,476	62,179	59,898	3,506	63,404
White	n/a	n/a	n/a	45,254	2,477	47,731	45,393	2,499	47,892
Mixed	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,515	184	1,699	1,633	159	1,792
Asian or Asian British	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,279	81	3,360	3,651	86	3,737
Black or Black British	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,722	669	8,391	8,250	683	8,933
Chinese or Other ethnic group	n/a	n/a	n/a	524	46	570	540	50	590
Not stated	n/a	n/a	n/a	210	10	220	238	19	257
Unrecorded	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	2	36	52	11	63
1991 Census ethnic codes	n/a	n/a	n/a	166	7	173	142	0	142

Number of persons

	June 2007			June 2008			June 2009		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Total	62,188	3,345	65,533	64,600	3,524	68,124	64,993	3,382	68,375
White	46,902	2,365	49,267	48,245	2,533	50,778	48,657	2,469	51,126
Mixed	1,792	143	1,935	2,024	137	2,161	2,151	135	2,286
Asian or Asian British	3,845	82	3,927	4,259	97	4,356	4,432	99	4,531
Black or Black British	8,645	669	9,314	8,949	657	9,606	8,817	597	9,414
Chinese or Other ethnic group	614	70	684	730	88	818	726	74	800
Not stated	245	9	254	264	10	274	133	8	141
Unrecorded	42	1	43	34	0	34	11	0	11
1991 Census ethnic codes	104	5	109	96	3	99	66	1	67

n/a = Data not available for 2004.

[1] Excludes police cells.

[2] Ethnicity categories based on 2001 Census codes introduced in 2003.

Note:

Data within this table are taken from the publication "Offender Management Caseload Statistics, England and Wales" 2005-09. Table 8.29 for years 2005 and 2006 and Table 7.23 for years 2007-09 refer.

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have authorised access to mobile telephones; and for how many hours per week such prisoners had such access on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [49077]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 465-66W, which sets out the NOMS mobile phone strategy.

Prisoners generally are not permitted access to mobile phones. It is a disciplinary offence under the Prison Rules 1999 for prisoners to possess an unauthorised item, and the Offender Management Act 2007 made it a criminal offence to convey mobile phones and associated equipment into or out of a prison, or to transmit sounds or images from within a prison, without authorisation. The Crime and Security Act 2010 will also make it an offence, with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine, to possess in a prison without authorisation a mobile phone or other device or component part that can receive or transmit images, sounds or information electronically. This provision is due to be introduced in the summer.

There are limited exceptions where use of a mobile phone by a prisoner may be authorised, for example, to enable prisons to provide direct telephone access to the Samaritans national helpline number. For out-of-hours access, cordless phones are most commonly provided; however, where there are reception problems prisons will sometimes provide mobile phones, pre-programmed only to allow contact with the Samaritans. The number of phone calls made from pre-programmed mobile phones is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In addition, prisoners who are released on temporary licence, for example to work outside a prison in either voluntary or paid employment may be permitted to take their personal mobile phone with them. The phones are stored in lockers at the prison gate when the prisoner is inside the establishment. Any prisoner taking their phone into the prison would be subject to disciplinary action. All prisoners released on temporary licence will have been risk assessed. No data are collected centrally on the extent to which this occurs and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Offenders Information Systems

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will assess the merits of linking probation and prison IT systems with those of the police in England and Wales; [49015]

(2) what plans he has for the future of the National Offender Management Service's probation IT system; [49016]

(3) if he will assess the merits of establishing an integrated IT system for prisons and probation services in England and Wales. [49017]

Mr Blunt: The C-NOMIS project, established in 2004, intended to provide a single interactive record of offenders across the prison and probation services. In 2007, it was stopped after it was identified that there was insufficient funding and in 2008, was replaced by the National Offender Management Information Systems (NOMIS) Programme.

The NOMIS Programme comprises five IT-enabled business change projects:

Prison-NOMIS, an improved, centralised prisons case management system now fully rolled out;

Inmate information system update, improving functionality;

Probation case management system (PCMS) will replace a variety of different systems with one centralised system for probation;

A data share system (DSS) has been developed and will be implemented (as part of PCMS), enabling probation staff to access the core prisons information they need for effective offender management; and

The offender assessment system-replacement (OASys-R) will provide an improved, shared system for offender assessment across both prison and probation services.

The latter three projects will directly benefit the probation service. In addition, the Offender Management National Infrastructure-Transformation Programme is transforming the probation service's ICT infrastructure into a national, centralised system with better resilience, security and performance. This programme includes the consolidation of 42 area data centres into two national data centres.

Although a single integrated system for the prisons and probation services will not be implemented (through the C-NOMIS project) the NOMIS Programme will deliver a reduction from 220 separate systems to three across both services. In addition, the NOMIS Programme is addressing data sharing enhancements, by providing the probation trusts with the ability to view core Prison-NOMIS offender information, through its DSS project and the OASys-R will enable both prisons and probation staff to share offender assessments. Furthermore, many police forces receive information relating to prisoners who are due to be released into their constabulary from Prison-NOMIS and the local inmate database system (the existing case management system used by privately operated prisons) via the prisoner intelligence notification system.

In the longer term, the Ministry of Justice will ensure that technical standards for the development of systems to facilitate the creation of future database links are clear and that there is potential for future enhancements to build interoperability. The National Offender Management Service will also be examining, as part of the National Audit Office recommendations, whether the programme should achieve more joining-up. This examination will include considering more linkage with the police. The programme will ensure that this work is followed up with the Department's information and communications technology organisation, once the programme completes delivery in spring 2012.

Remembrance Day

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* make Remembrance Day poppy burning a hate crime and *(b)* amend sentencing guidelines for those sentenced in respect of such actions. [48468]

Mr Blunt: The Government understands the anger that poppy burning can cause. However, there is already appropriate legislation dealing with insulting, threatening or abusive behaviour likely to, or intended to, cause harassment, alarm or distress. Sentencing guidelines are a matter for the independent Sentencing Council, but custodial penalties are already available where the behaviour is intentionally directed at a person. It is also open to the court to increase a sentence on account of factors that the court deems to be aggravating in the particular case, even where those factors are not specifically set out in statute or guidelines.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine levied on a person convicted of an offence under section *(a)* 14(3) and *(b)* 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was in the last six months. [R] [48874]

Mr Blunt: The average fine imposed at all courts in England and Wales for offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988, sections 14 and 15, is given in the table for July to December 2009 (latest available). It is not possible to separately identify section 14(3) from other offences in sections 14 and 15.

The table also includes a column headed "Median fine". Occasionally large fines handed down to companies or other organisations can have a misleading impact when using the mean to represent average fine amounts and therefore both average fine and median fine are given in the table.

Section 41D gave authority to existing regulations, under the Road vehicles (Construction and use) Regulations 1986, to make certain offences endorsable. The average fine imposed at all courts for these offences are also given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring, 2011.

Average fine[1] imposed at all courts for selected offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988[2] and Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, England and Wales, July to December 2009[3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Number of fines*	*Average fine (£)*	*Median fine (£)*
Road Traffic Act 1988—sections 14(1) (2) and (3), 15(1)(A) (2) and (4), and 15B	Seat belt offences	1,440	81	60
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110[1]	Use of hand held mobile phone while driving	16,701	115	100
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110[2]	Causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle	3	*	*
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110[3]	Using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road	2	*	*

* = Figure suppressed as number too small to give meaningful average.

[1] Based on the number of persons for whom the fine was the principle sentence for motoring offences heard at one court appearance.

[2] It is not possible to separately identify section 14(3) from other offences in sections 14 and 15.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of *(a)* a jury trial at the Crown Court for (i) either way offences sent by magistrates where their sentencing powers are not deemed sufficient, (ii) either way offences where the defendant has chosen to elect jury trial and (iii) indictable only offences and *(b)* a trial by a justice of the peace in a magistrates court for (A) summary only offences and (B) either way offences in the latest period for which figures are available. [44950]

Mr Blunt: The estimated average cost of a jury trial at the Crown court is £3,900 for either way offences sent by magistrates, £2,900 for either way offences where the defendant elects for jury trial, £8,100 for indictable only offences where there is a not guilty plea, and £700 for indictable only offences where there is a guilty plea.

The estimated average cost of a trial at magistrates court is £300 for summary motoring offences, £900 for summary non-motoring offences, and £900 for either way offences.

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has had discussions with representatives of police forces on the enforcement of the law to reduce instances of squatting. [49390]

Mr Blunt: Ministry of Justice officials are in ongoing discussions with other interested Government Departments, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service about the issue of squatting. We will continue to work closely with them as we develop proposals in this area.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the outcome of his Department's review of Compensation for Victims of Overseas Terrorism. [49478]

Mr Blunt: Previous proposals for compensating victims of terrorism overseas are being considered alongside a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and wider victims' services. The outcome of this review will be announced in due course.

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Illness

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take other than through the Juvenile Awareness Staff Programme to support the provision of services to young people in young offender institutions who have complex *(a)* mental health and *(b)* substance misuse issues. [49093]

Mr Blunt: As part of the spending review settlement, from April 2011 the Department of Health will take responsibility for the £6 million that the Ministry of Justice currently invests in young people's substance misuse interventions in the secure estate.

The Department of Health already have responsibility for the provision of mental health services in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs), and have allocated an additional £1.6 million per year for 'tier 3' Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS) in YOIs to provide for those with complex mental health needs.

The Ministry of Justice is working closely with the Department of Health to ensure that the changes to the NHS proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill will help to deliver improved commissioning of mental health, substance misuse and other health services in the youth secure estate and in the community.

In addition, as set out in our Green Paper: "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", the Government are committed to intervening early and diverting young people with mental health and other problems from the criminal justice system where appropriate. The Department of Health and the Ministry Of Justice have committed to a nationwide rollout of diversion schemes by 2014.

Youth Justice Plan

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the Youth Justice Plan (Capability and Capacity Assessment) for each youth offending team for each of the last three years; and when he expects the Youth Justice Plan (Capability and Capacity Assessment) for 2011-12 to be finalised. [48980]

Mr Blunt: Youth Justice plans and capability and capacity assessments are two separate reporting documents used by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and youth offending teams (YOTs).

There are currently 157 YOTs in England and Wales who are required by statute to produce annual youth justice plans. For 2010-11, the YJB have so far received 98 plans which will be deposited in hard copy or on disc in the Libraries of the House by the end of April. The YJB is in contact with the remaining 59 YOTs to submit their plans before the end of the financial year. Those that are received will also be deposited by the end of April. The YJB does not hold plans for earlier years.

Capability and capacity assessments are internal working documents for the YJB and YOTs and are not published. Disclosure of these documents could deter YOTs from discussing performance candidly with the YJB.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the effect on demand of trends in the price of alcohol. [48609]

James Brokenshire: In January the Home Office published a review of the evidence base on the likely impacts of increasing alcohol price. This complemented a Treasury report published in November 2010 which reviewed alcohol taxation. Both reports can be accessed on the Home Office website via:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/alcohol/alcohol-pricing/

Animal Experiments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 646-47W, on animal experiments, when she expects to make an announcement on the date for a ban on the testing of household products on animals; to which ingredients used in household products the ban will extend; and what definition of the term household product her Department uses. [45398]

Lynne Featherstone: There is no authoritative definition of "household product" in UK or European legislation. For the purposes of the proposed prohibition on testing of such products on animals we plan to apply the definition of "substances used in the household" used for reporting purposes in the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals published annually. This includes all products that are primarily intended for use in the home, including detergents and other laundry products, household cleaners, air-fresheners, toilet blocks, polishes, paper products such as infant nappies, paints, glues (and removers), other furnishing and DIY products and household pesticides. The prohibition will apply to both finished household products and their ingredients, although in practice mainly the latter are tested. We are working towards delivering the prohibition through the conditions of licences issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and will announce the outcome as soon as this work is complete.

Asylum: Community Relations

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ipswich (Ben Gummer) of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 228W, on asylum: community relations, which other Government Departments will be represented on the working group on the integration needs of refugees; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the working group's terms of reference. [48969]

Damian Green: The Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Department for Communities and Local Government will all be represented on the working group. A copy of the terms of reference will be placed in the House once these are finalised and agreed.

Asylum: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid in One Stop Service funding to *(a)* the Refugee Council, *(b)* the Scottish Refugee Council, *(c)* the Welsh Refugee Council, *(d)* Refugee Action and *(e)* Migrant Helpline in each of the last five years. [48978]

Damian Green: The amount of funding provided to these organisations for the One Stop Service is detailed in the following table.

£ million

	One Stop Service—Funding 2006-11				
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Refugee Council	3.7	4.1	5.5	5.5	5.2
Scottish Refugee Council	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1
Welsh Refugee Council	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9
Refugee Action	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.9
Migrant Helpline	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3

Note:

Figures for 2010-11 are derived from the Agency budget. All other figures are derived from the Agency's audited annual accounts (or the annual accounts of the Home Office for 2006-07 and 2007-08).

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid in Initial Accommodation Wrap-around Service funding to *(a)* the Refugee Council, *(b)* the Scottish Refugee Council, *(c)* the Welsh Refugee Council, *(d)* Refugee Action and *(e)* Migrant Helpline in each of the last five years. [48979]

Damian Green: The amount of funding provided to these organisations is detailed in the following table.

Funding for wrap-around service 2006-11

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£ million* *2010-11*
Refugee Council	2.5	3.2	2.0	2.0	1.5
Scottish Refugee Council	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Welsh Refugee Council	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Refugee Action	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8
Migrant Helpline	3.8	3.1	0.9	0.9	0.9

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to the Refugee Council under the grant agreement for services provided by the Refugee Council Children's Panel in each of the last five years. [48994]

Damian Green: The amount of funding provided to the Funding for the Refugee Council's children's panel is detailed in the following table.

Funding for the Refugee Council's children's panel

	£ million
2006-07	1.3
2007-08	1.3
2008-09	1.3
2009-10	1.1
2010-11	0.8

Note:

Figures for 2010-11 are derived from the Agency budget. All other figures are derived from the Agency's audited annual accounts (or the annual accounts of the Home Office for 2006-07 and 2007-08).

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid in strategic funding to *(a)* the Refugee Council, *(b)* the Scottish Refugee Council and *(c)* the Welsh Refugee Council in each of the last five years. [48995]

Damian Green: The amount of funding provided to these organisations is detailed in the following table.

Strategic funding provided to voluntary sector organisations, 2006-11

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£ million* *2010-11*
Refugee Council	2.7	2.8	1.5	1.5	1.3
Scottish Refugee Council	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Welsh Refugee Council	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Notes:

1. Strategic funding was introduced in 2008-09. Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are for core funding.
2. Figures for 2010-11 are derived from the agency budget. All other figures are derived from the agency's audited annual accounts (or the annual accounts of the Home Office for 2006-07 and 2007-08).

Criminal Records

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to use funds available through the EU criminal justice programme for the purposes of building a European criminal records information system. [48090]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The final technical specifications for the European criminal records information system (ECRIS) have not yet been issued by the European Commission. Once the technical specifications have been issued we will consider whether to make a bid for EU funding. The UK has made a successful bid for funding to implement the Network of Judicial Registers project whose work will form a significant part of the ECRIS project.

ECRIS is a decentralised information technology system providing for the electronic exchange of information held in each member state's criminal records database. It is not a centralised criminal records database.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications her Department received from students wishing to enter higher education in the UK in each year since 2001; and how many such applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected. [49022]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency holds statistics for applications to study in the UK from 2004 only which are detailed in the following table:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Applications	286,230	283,835	313,210	317,564	312,611	385,218	323,162
Issued	187,621	194,349	217,934	223,589	208,796	273,394	254,058
Refused	88,139	84,364	89,801	92,871	92,365	93,457	77,753

The statistics provided are for all main applicants under the student and tier 4 of the points based system.

The UK Border Agency does not hold central data on the number of applicants who intend to study at higher education and these figures could be only obtained by examining individual applications at disproportionate cost.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role she expects universities to have in determining whether language requirements under the new overseas students visa regime are being met; and if she will make a statement. [49293]

Damian Green: We will be making changes to the immigration rules so that international students coming to study at degree level and above are required to be proficient in English level B2 on the Council of Europe Framework of Reference. Students attending institutions other than universities will be required to pass a secure English language test. For university students, we will allow the sponsoring university to certify that the student meets the English language requirement.

Forensic Science

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forensic laboratories were in operation in the last period for which figures are available; and how many such laboratories were professionally accredited. [48157]

James Brokenshire: There are 41 fingerprint enhancement labs (FEL) in England and Wales, and there are currently two shared labs (Cleveland and Durham, and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire). The Association of Chief Police Officers Forensic Science Portfolio Lead, chief constable Chris Sims, has set a requirement for all English and Welsh police FELs to be accredited to ISO 17025 by November 2015, in line with the mandatory EU framework decision. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is currently undertaking work with forces to support them in achieving this.

In addition to fingerprint analysis, which has traditionally been conducted by forces, a number of forces also have facilities for other forensic functions. Complete data on non FEL forensics activity in forces are not currently held centrally, but the NPIA will shortly be undertaking a survey of English and Welsh forces to establish their ISO 17025 implementation plans. The Metropolitan police service has a laboratory accredited to ISO 17025 for trace evidence recovery and is working towards accreditation to the same standard for the examination of firearms and ammunition. A number of forces, including Derbyshire, Cheshire, west midlands, Greater Manchester and Lancashire, are also working through the accreditation process for ISO 17025 for a range of forensics capabilities.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* confirmed and *(b)* suspected cases of trafficking of children of each (i) gender and (ii) age group in or through each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [48599]

Damian Green: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which is the UK's Government-led, multi-agency framework to help identify and support victims, started operating on 1 April 2009. Comparable estimates are not available prior to this date.

Since 1 April 2009 eight children have been referred to the NRM by First Responders in Northern Ireland. The breakdown of NRM decisions is as follows:

Outcome	*Number*
Not trafficked	4
Trafficked	1
Missing	1
Decision pending	1
Withdrawn	1
Total	8

"Missing" cases are where the child has either absconded or is missing prior to the trafficking decision being made.

"Withdrawn" cases are where the child exits the system prior to the trafficking decision being made for example where they leave the UK.

The gender and age groups of the eight children are as follows:

Gender	*Number*
Male	1
Female	7
Total	8

Age	*Number*
12-15 years	4
16-17 years	4
Total	8

We do not hold a breakdown of NRM referrals by parliamentary constituency.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many national referral mechanism reports have been made on children in Northern Ireland; and how many people have been recognised as victims of trafficking as a result of such reports. [48600]

Damian Green: UK-wide national referral mechanism (NRM) statistical reports are published quarterly and can be found on the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) website at:

www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/statistical-data

Since 1 April 2009 eight children have been referred to the NRM by First Responders in Northern Ireland. One child has been conclusively identified as a victim of trafficking for the purposes of the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings, four children have been found not to be victims of trafficking, in one case the child has gone missing, in another case the decision is pending and the remaining case was withdrawn.

Immigrants: Crimes against Humanity

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people identified as having been actively engaged in the activities at the Trawniki concentration camp in Poland between 1939 and 1944 and now reside in the UK are known to her Department. [49263]

Damian Green: For reasons of confidentiality, the Home Office does not routinely comment on individual cases.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will use her powers under section 40 of the British Nationality Act 1981 to ensure early deprivation of British citizenship in cases where it is beyond reasonable doubt that individuals have previously engaged in crimes against humanity. [49264]

Damian Green: Wherever it is considered conducive to the public good to do so, or where it is in accord with the policy for depriving individuals of their British citizenship on the basis that the individuals obtained British citizenship as a result of fraud, false representation or concealment of material fact, action will be taken to remove the British citizenship of individuals who have engaged in crimes against humanity.

Immigration: Married People

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to extend the probationary period of settlement for spouses beyond two years. [49101]

Damian Green: The Government will be looking at the issue of the probationary period of settlement for spouses in the context of a wider consultation on family migration later this year. This will include proposals to tackle sham marriages and other abuse, promote integration and reduce burdens on the UK taxpayer.

Knives

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal knives each police force seized or otherwise received in each year since 2007. [49159]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Forensic Science

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police force budgets on average was spent on obtaining forensic science services from external providers in each of the last three years; and whether she plans to issue guidance to police authorities on the proportion of police force budgets to be allocated to such services from external providers under the future system for procurement of forensic science services. [48849]

James Brokenshire: Information collected from forces by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) shows that police force forensic spend as a percentage of budget requirement was 1.24% and 1.20% for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. The CIPFA data for 2007-08 do not provide figures for forensic spend.

National Police Improvement Agency advise that the CIPFA spend categorisation is likely to slightly under-report the total expenditure, and market analysis has suggested a higher percentage for 2009-10 equivalent to around 1.45%.

Decisions are still to be taken as to the future of police procurement of forensic science services; the Home Office is working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers and forces to ensure continuity of service to the CJS throughout the transition process.

UK Border Agency

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which Government Departments the UK Border Agency has a memorandum of understanding for the sharing of information. [49296]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has formal data sharing memorandums of understanding with the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Customs and Revenue and the Ministry of Defence.

TRANSPORT

Commission for Integrated Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget for Commission for Integrated Transport *(a)* was in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 and *(b)* will be for (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14 and (D) 2014-15. [46653]

Norman Baker: The budget for the Commission for Integrated Transport *(a)* was:

(i) £994,000 in 2009-10; and,

(ii) £321,000 in 2010-11.

(b) There will be no budget for the Commission from 2011-12, due to its abolition announced on 14 October 2010.

Cycling England

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* costs will be incurred and *(b)* savings will be made from abolishing Cycling England in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [46484]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1099W, which answers her point as to the cost of abolishing Cycling England at the end of March 2011.

Regarding savings to be made, the costs of Cycling England as a body have been approximately £385,000 per annum, taking into account staff salaries, an honorarium for the chairman, travel and subsistence and the Cycling England press office/media support unit. Some of these costs (staffing and promotion activity) will be absorbed into Department for Transport running costs.

Financial reasons were not the primary factor in the decision to abolish Cycling England.

Departmental Assets

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47410]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not provide funding to the regional development agencies, and would not be due any receipts from the sale of their assets. Therefore no receipts of this kind have been reflected in the Department's spending plans in any year.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43311]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport expects to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production as follows:

Agency	*Date of expected compliance*
DFT (central Department)	Already complies: DFTc already complies with the Government's commitment to source food that meets British (or equivalent) standards of production
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	Already complies: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency already complies with the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	August 2011: DSA's contract with Sodexo ends in August 2011 and developing new requirements at this stage may be considered too onerous for their supplier to adopt at no additional charge. The total facilities management project board have noted the requirement and will include this in the mobilisation plan with the new supplier
Highways Agency (HA)	The Highways Agency (HA) procures food via its current two facilities management (FM) contracts. Although there is requirement to provide variety and healthy options, they do not specify sourcing or farm production standards under the current contract terms. It is now planned to incorporate an appropriate change to these terms as part of contract renewal processes which will need to be effective from February 2014

No other Department for Transport agencies have contracts for the procurement of food.

Departmental Manpower

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in the numbers of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of the non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [46489]

Norman Baker: Estimates for the change in full time equivalent staff numbers (FTEs) in the Department through to 2014-15 is as follows:

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
					Decrease by:
DfT	389	492	327	313	314
Number of the above total from the central Department	243	114	36	36	50

Note:
All numbers are estimates.

Estimates for the changes in numbers of staff FTEs in the Department's non-departmental public bodies are as follows:

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Renewable Fuels Agency	—	Decrease by: 2	Decrease by: 3	—	—
British Transport Police Authority	No current estimate				
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	DPTAC has no direct employees				
Directly Operated Railways Ltd.	No current estimate				
High Speed 2	No current estimate				
Northern Lighthouse Board	Decrease by: 0.6	Decrease by: 8.3	Decrease by: 3	Decrease by: 2.1	—
Railway Heritage Committee	The Railway Heritage Committee has no direct employees				
Traffic Commissioners and Deputy Traffic Commissioners	No current estimate				
Trinity House Lighthouse Service	—	Decrease by: 4	Decrease by: 5	Decrease by: 12	Decrease by: 10
Passenger Focus	Staff numbers will be determined once reform plans have been agreed				
Cycling England	Cycling England has no direct employees				

Note:
All numbers are estimates.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46570]

Norman Baker: There are two special advisers at the Department for Transport. The estimated pay bill for the period 12 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 is £4.9 million for all Government special advisers. This includes salaries and pension costs.

Details of the pension arrangements are set out in the model contract for special advisers.

Departmental Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged in the latest period for which figures are available. [45686]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport response is as follows:

(i) DFT(c)

DFT(c)

Value	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
(a) £10 million to £49,999 million	[1]8	1
(b) £50 million to £99,999 million	[2]1	—
(c) Over £100 million	[3]7	2

[1] DFT(c) continued to engage on seven of these projects in 2010-11.

[2] DFT(c) continued to engage on this project in 2010-11.

[3] DFT(c) continued to engage on 6 of these projects in 2010-11.

(ii) Agencies

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DCLA)

The following is a record of the contracts the DVLA was engaged in during the 2009-10 and 2010-2011 financial years:

(a) £10 million plus—4 contracts

(b) £50 million plus—4 contracts

(c) £100 million plus—3 contracts

This information is representative of both years, as the DVLA did not enter into any additional contracts during the 2010-11 financial year.

Driving Standards Agency (DSA)

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has not engaged upon any procurement projects with a monetary value greater than £10 million in 2009-10.

During 2010-11, DSA is facilitating the tender exercise for a total facilities management contract principally for DSA, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. The estimated value is £3 million per annum over a maximum of six years (£18 million in total).

Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)

Nil

Highways Agency (HA)

Highways Agency (HA)

Value (excluding VAT)	*Awarded* *2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Currently in preparation*
(a) £10 million to £49,999 million	16	2	5
(b) £50 million to £99,999 million	3	1	2
(c) £100 million plus	8	0	7

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)

Nil

Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)

Nil

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

Nil

(ii) Non-departmental public bodies

British Transport Police Authority

2010-11: *(a)* 1 over £10 million

Cycling England

Nil

High Speed 2

Nil

Directly Operated Railways

Nil

Northern Lighthouse Board

The Northern Lighthouse Board has not been engaged upon any procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million for the financial years 2009-10 or 2010-11.

Passenger Focus

Nil

Railway Heritage

Nil

Renewable Fuels Agency

Nil

Trinity House

Nil

Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [47050]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport introduced four regulations which came into force between 9 and 28 February 2011 and these are listed in the following table.

DFT regulations introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011

Title	*Ref No.*	*In force*	*Explanatory notes*
The Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) (London Underground Metropolitan Line S8 Vehicles) Exemption Order 2011	2011 No. 70	14 February 2011	The rail vehicle accessibility regulations require that manual boarding devices should be fitted when the gap between a station platform and the edge of a wheelchair compatible doorway on a regulated vehicle exceeds certain specified dimensions. Earlier this year SI 435/2010 exempted certain specified vehicles in the London Underground (LU) S8 fleet of vehicles on the Metropolitan line from this requirement with vehicle numbers and station platforms clearly specified in the order. The SI now being prepared would simply add a further six platforms to the ones specified in SI 435/2010 and the SI is being progressed through Parliament under the negative resolution procedure.

DFT regulations introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011

Title	*Ref No.*	*In force*	*Explanatory notes*
The Cobham Motorway Service Area Trunk Road Order 2011	2011 No. 247	23 February 2011	This Order enables the temporary carriageway, to be constructed to the south of the M25 motorway, at Downside near Cobham in Surrey, to be designated as a motorway for the duration of the works.
The M25 Motorway (Cobham Motorway Service Area Temporary Special Road) Scheme 2011	2011 No. 248	23 February 2011	This order creates a special road scheme to enable the temporary carriageway being constructed to the south of the M25 motorway, at Downside near Cobham in Surrey, to become a motorway.
The Cobham Motorway Service Area Trunk Road (Connecting Roads) Order 2011	2011 No. 249	23 February 2011	This order enables slip roads to be constructed to connect the M25 motorway to the Cobham motorway service area at downside near Cobham in the county of Surrey.

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many buildings on his Department's estate were occupied by squatters in each year between 2006 and 2010; and on how many occasions his Department sought interim possession orders to remove squatters from such buildings in each of those years. [47612]

Norman Baker: There were no reported instances of Department for Transport buildings being occupied by squatters in this period.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* costs will be incurred and *(b)* savings will be made from abolishing the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [46476]

Norman Baker: We will be taking forward a consultative process on successor arrangements in the coming months and as such it is not possible to determine likely costs or savings until successor arrangements have been finalised. For the purposes of the Cabinet Office-led process to assess the financial impacts of public bodies reform (the results of which were set out in the related written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS), we assumed administrative savings of around one-third by 2014-15, against the 2010-11 baseline of £496,000, for the successor arrangements to the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).

Financial reasons were not the primary factor in the decision to abolish DPTAC.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what residual functions will remain following the abolition of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee; which organisations will carry out each such function; what the estimated costs of each such function are; and what transfer of funds will be made to each organisation to carry out each such function. [46477]

Norman Baker: No decision on successor arrangements has yet been taken. We will be taking forward a consultative process on successor arrangements in the coming months. It is not possible to determine likely costs or savings until successor arrangements have been finalised. For the purposes of the Cabinet Office-led process to assess the financial impacts of public bodies reform (the results of which were set out in the related written ministerial statement of 16 March 2001, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS), we assumed administrative savings of around one-third by 2014-15, against the 2010-11 baseline of £496,000, for the successor arrangements to the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).

Financial reasons were not the primary factor in the decision to abolish DPTAC.

Driving Instruction: Qualifications

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of introducing quotas for part 3 of the Approved Driving Instructors test. [49489]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency does not operate a quota system in relation to any of the tests it delivers—it would not be appropriate to do so. All candidates, including those seeking to qualify as an approved driving instructor, are successful or unsuccessful based upon their performance during the test against the set assessment criteria, which are publicly available.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will conduct an investigation into the causes of recent trends in pass rates over the course of a year for part 3 of the Approved Driving Instructors test. [49490]

Mike Penning: We have no plans to conduct an investigation on this specific point—there has been no discernible trend in recent months.

The Driving Standards Agency, which is responsible for regulating professional driving instructors, has been holding discussions with interested parties about possible improvements to the initial approved driving instructors (ADI) qualification and standards maintenance arrangements for the occupation.

The following table sets out the national pass rate over the course of 2010.

2010	*Number of ADI part 3 tests*	*Pass rate for the ADI part 3 (Percentage)*
January	711	33.6
February	1,228	31.5
March	1,348	31.1
April	1,132	32.2
May	1,188	33.6
June	1,243	31.9

2010	*Number of ADI part 3 tests*	*Pass rate for the ADI part 3 (Percentage)*
July	1,115	35.7
August	1,007	33.3
September	1,167	33.1
October	1,035	34.5
November	1,058	32.5
December	529	37.6

The annual national pass rate for the part 3, ADI test of instructional ability, in 2009-10 was 34%. The annual national pass rate for 2010-11 will be published in due course.

Driving Tests: Scotland

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which driving test centres in Scotland have been nominated for closure by the Driving Standards Agency. [41996]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) estate is continually being reviewed to maximise the service provision while maintaining efficiency.

There are two driving test centres (DTC) in Scotland planned for closure during the rest of 2011. These are:

Kilmarnock

Saltcoats.

The testing provision at both DTCs will be absorbed by the new test centre at Irvine which is about eight miles from each.

The Agency is also being required to vacate Dumbarton DTC, as its Memorandum of Terms of Occupation was cancelled by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Testing will continue in the town from a new location, which has been identified and terms are currently being negotiated.

If closure of a test centre is required for any reason, such as in Dunbarton, the Agency will seek to ensure the continuation of test provision where appropriate.

Falmouth Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the re-instatement costs of closing the Falmouth Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre if it is not transformed into a sub-centre under the proposed operating model. [48059]

Mike Penning: The current proposals for the modernisation of HM Coastguard do not involve disposing of the building in Falmouth where the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre is located.

When the Maritime and Coastguard Agency disposes of properties which are Crown buildings on leased land it undertakes negotiations with the landowner about their requirements. Until any such discussions are concluded, the cost of re-instatement, if applicable, cannot be estimated.

Galileo System: Expenditure

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing funding to the Galileo project from its inception to its projected completion date. [41421]

Mrs Villiers: The Galileo programmes development stage took place between 2000 and 2007, and was funded through contributions by member states of the European Space Agency (ESA). The UK's contribution to the approximately €1.5 billion (£1.29 billion at February 2011 prices) budget funded this way was €240.3 million (£206.2 million).

In 2007, member states and the European Commission agreed a budget of €3.4 billion (£2.93 billion) of EU funds to complete the programme. As a rough indication, the UK's pre-abatement contribution to the 2010 EU budget is currently estimated at 14%.

On 18 January 2011, the Commission published its mid-term review of the Galileo programme, which stated that the programme could not be completed within the €3.4 billion budget.

The Commission estimate that completing the programme as it was originally envisaged would require a further €1.9 billion (£1.64 billion) in the next financial perspective. The mid-term review is not a formal legal proposal for this funding.

The UK believes that rather than increasing the budget, the Commission should look at ways of reducing the scope of the programme to a level that can be achieved within the current budget.

The Commission is currently undertaking a cost analysis of the system which will investigate the options for reducing costs on the system. A formal proposal for further funding to complete Galileo will not be made before the cost analysis is complete. It is not possible to estimate the final cost of completing the system until a formal proposal is made.

The mid term review also indicated that the operational costs of the full system would be €800 million (£668.7 million) per annum. The operational costs will need to be met from 2014, but these are expected to be less than €800 million estimate to reflect the size of the constellation available at that time.

UK companies have been successful in competing for contracts to build parts of the Galileo system. Since the programme's inception, contracts worth at least €556 million (£478.7 million) have been won by UK companies. This figure is expected to rise as the full Galileo budget is yet to be committed.

Great Western Railway

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the time taken to make stops at intermediary stations on the Great Western Main Line of the introduction of the Intercity Express Programme fleet. [48189]

Mrs Villiers: Because of the superior acceleration of Intercity Express trains, along with the fitment of fast-operating automatic doors, the time taken to insert a station call will fall from around six minutes to four minutes, by comparison with a non-stop train. The exact acceleration depends on the prevailing line speed and typical passenger demand at any specific station.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the net number of jobs that will created by the High Speed 2 project; over what time period such jobs will be created; and where such jobs will be located. [48374]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 22 March 2011]*: Information on the numbers, locations and timing of jobs supported by the initial London to west midlands phase of the Government's proposed high speed rail network have been published as part of the current consultation on high speed rail. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the main consultation document and to Appendix 3 to the Appraisal of Sustainability, available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

and

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/appraisal-sustainability

respectively.

Large Goods Vehicles: Accidents

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured as a result of an accident involving a foreign registered heavy goods vehicle in each of the last five years; and in how many such accidents a blind spot in the off-side mirror of the vehicle was found to be a causal factor. [47749]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 18 March 2011]*: The number of reported casualties in accidents involving foreign registered heavy goods vehicles in each of last five years for which data are available is given in the following table:

Reported casualties in accidents involving foreign registered heavy goods vehicles: GB 2005 to 2009

		Casualties
	Killed	*Injured*
2005	33	1,507
2006	44	1,322
2007	31	1,244
2008	35	1,172
2009	21	986

It is not possible to identify accidents where a blind spot in the off-side mirror of the vehicle was found to be a causal factor.

However, the number of accidents involving foreign registered heavy goods vehicles where the contributory factor "vehicle blind spot" was assigned to the foreign HGV by police officer attending the scene of the accident is given in the following table:

Reported accidents[1] involving a foreign heavy goods vehicles where contributory factor "vehicle blind spot" was assigned to the foreign HGV: GB 2005 to 2009

Accidents		
	Fatal	*Injury*
2005	0	297
2006	1	263
2007	2	194
2008	1	191
2009	1	212

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Data for 2010 will be published in summer 2011.

London Midland: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what budget headings the subsidy for London Midland train operating company was spent in the latest period for which figures are available. [48268]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 March 2011]*: The budget for London Midland is part of programme spend under departmental expenditure limits (DEL).

The specific heading is titled Support for Passenger Rail Service (SPRS) and includes network grant paid through the train operating companies (TOCs)

TOC periodic subsidy payments are not published as some elements are paid on account to reflect estimated value of work/services discharged to date.

Annual spend is published after year end and all outstanding issues concluded to ensure accurate values are provided to the public.

London Midland: Tickets

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has had discussions with London Midland on its plans to close ticket offices. [48266]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 March 2011]*: No specific discussions have occurred with London Midland about the plans to close ticket offices.

London Midland has served notice to stakeholders, including the Department of Transport, on the proposed changes to ticket office hours.

London Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the London transport grant revenue budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved by each such action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46334]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the general Transport for London revenue budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved by each such action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46335]

(3) how much funding he has allocated to the capital budget for London transport grants in 2014-15; [46646]

(4) what steps he is taking to reduce the London transport grants capital budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved by each such action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46647]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport has published details of the amount of revenue and capital grant the Government intend to pay Transport for London over the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 in his letter to the Mayor of London dated 20 October 2010. This letter is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/letters/tflfunding/pdf/sosletter.pdf

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the vehicle excise duty collection and enforcement revenue budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved by each such action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [46651]

Mike Penning: The core Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) proposals over the comprehensive spending review period revolve around restructuring of services: further channel shift to e-transactions; policy changes; streamlining and automating transaction handling; and incentivising suppliers to achieve procurement savings.

The final make up of the proposals is still being discussed but we envisage that they will provide £100 million savings annually by the end of 2014-15 compared to the 2010-11 baseline.

As part of these savings, the planned vehicle excise duty collection and enforcement revenue budget will increase by £1.1 million in 2011-12 and then reduce by £5 million in 2012-13, by £4.2 million in 2013-14 and by £8.2 million in 2014-15.

DVLA continues to look at further savings which could be achieved while maintaining the current, very high compliance rate of 99.1% of VED collected. Each further action proposed will be evaluated against the risk of greater VED evasion.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to ensure that vehicles entering the UK comply with the legal requirement to register with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency within six months. [45976]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport operates a strategy of education, warning and then direct enforcement action to help tackle non-compliant unlicensed foreign vehicles. This approach includes presentations to community leaders, articles in the media, the issue of information leaflets and warning notices placed on vehicles' windscreens. If there is evidence that a foreign vehicle is in breach of the rules, it can be clamped and impounded.

Network Rail: Electrification

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Network Rail undertakes of the local economic benefits of rail electrification projects. [48107]

Mrs Villiers: The assessment made by the Department for Transport and Network Rail is done in accordance with the standards laid down by Treasury guidance in "The Green Book—Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government".

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department received from Network Rail on electrification of the Ebbw Valley Line. [48109]

Mrs Villiers: The Network Route Utilisation Strategy on Electrification, published by Network Rail in October 2009, advises the Department on the strategy for electrification of the railway. The Ebbw Valley Line was considered in this context.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of traffic orders needed to assist in regulating traffic to implement the Olympic Transport Plan in each London borough; and if he will make a statement. [48527]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* Transport for London is leading on delivery of transport operations in the capital during the 2012 Games. It is working closely with borough local traffic authorities and other stakeholders on the development and implementation through traffic regulation orders of a co-ordinated programme of temporary measures to meet the needs of those working, competing at and attending events during this period, while keeping London moving. Informal consultation with local businesses and residents on the detail of those measures, including public exhibitions, began in February.

Ports

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the rate of return on the Government's capital in each trust port. [48066]

Mike Penning: Each trust port in England and Wales is an independent statutory body controlled by its own board. The Government do not own any trust port nor does it hold capital in any trust port.

Railways: Advertising

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of *(a)* potential opportunities for income generation from advertising on passenger rail services and *(b)* mechanisms available under franchises to enable income from such advertising to be used to reduce rail fares charged by train operating companies. [46321]

Mrs Villiers: Advertising revenue, like other revenues, is reflected in the premium or subsidy that franchisees bid and pay to Government. The Government place significant controls on the level of fares that are charged for a large proportion of journeys through fares regulation, including most commuter journeys. Other fares are set at the commercial level by the train operator. There are no plans to change this regulatory approach by introducing a direct or indirect link to advertising revenue.

Railways: Birmingham

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he is considering proposals for the connection of Birmingham, Curzon Street station with *(a)* Birmingham, New Street, *(b)* Birmingham, Snow Hill and *(c)* Birmingham, Moor Hill station by passenger rail services. [43440]

Mrs Villiers: The proposed re-use of Birmingham Curzon street station is currently included in the High Speed 2 public consultation. Any decisions about future services connecting Curzon street to other Birmingham stations will be for Birmingham city council and Centra and will be made at an appropriate point after the consultation has closed and when service plans are more advanced.

Railways: Construction

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to his Department's estimate of the cost of High Speed 2 over a 60 year period, what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of High Speed 2 over that period. [47121]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd's assessment of the costs to Government of the proposed Y-shaped high speed rail network, as well as of the initial London-West Midlands phase, are set out in the "Economic Case for HS2", available on the HS2 consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

In both cases, this assessment shows that annual operating costs would be more than offset by estimated revenues.

A broad estimate of the profile of expenditure during the construction period for an initial London-West Midlands high speed line was provided in HS2 Ltd's original report to Government, "High Speed Rail: London to the West Midlands and Beyond", which can be accessed at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/hs2report/

Railways: Franchises

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to the London Midland franchise in subsidy in each year since 2007; and what premium payment his Department received in each such year. [48239]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport (DfT) published the payment profile for London Midland Railway at the time of awarding the west midlands franchise towards the end of 2007. This profile can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/franchises/wm/wmfranchise

DfT provides a supplemental input of subsidy payment and premium received from train operating companies (TOCs) to the 'National Rail Trends Yearbook', published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). The information requested is contained in 'Table 6.2c: Subsidy per passenger kilometre by TOC' and is available on the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

and

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/nrt_ch6_miscella_tables.pdf

Railways: Safety

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanism his Department has put in place to ensure passenger safety at unstaffed train stations. [48265]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* It is the responsibility of relevant rail industry duty holders to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, that an appropriate level of passenger safety is maintained at stations. The Office of Rail Regulation, as the independent health and safety regulator of Britain's railways, monitors compliance with those responsibilities.

A wide range of best practice industry measures for dealing with passenger safety is available, such as the use of closed circuit television cameras. There is also a high level of industry participation in the Secure Stations Scheme, which encourages duty holder use of safety measures such as help points and improved lighting at stations.

Rescue Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has assessed potential trends in the impact rate of systemic risks under the future operating model for HM Coastguard; and what plans his Department has to mitigate any increased impact from the systemic risks of mission failure caused by *(a)* inadequate monitoring and *(b)* delayed or missed intervention resulting from (i) insufficient staff, (ii) insufficient qualified personnel and (iii) skills fade. [48060]

Mike Penning: On 11 February 2011 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency published a suite of documents concerning the assessment of risk in respect of the proposals to modernise HM Coastguard. These documents are available on the MCA website:

www.mcga.gov.uk

The documents provide a broad outline of the systemic risks and impacts presented by the existing coastguard structure and how those are controlled or mitigated by the modernisation proposals.

These documents include assessments of the impact from the systemic risks of mission failure caused by inadequate monitoring and delayed or missed intervention resulting from insufficient staff, insufficient qualified personnel and skills fade.

The continual monitoring and assessment of risk will be an integral part of the future operating model of HM Coastguard.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* HM Coastguard staff on the consultation on proposals for modernisation of HM Coastguard. [49699]

Mike Penning: I have visited a number of coastguard maritime rescue co-ordination centres across the country to discuss the proposals for the modernisation of the service with staff. A number of staff trade union representatives have been present at meetings during these visits.

Rescue Services: Fife Ness

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to visit Fife Ness coastguard station. [49700]

Mike Penning: It will not be possible for me to visit every maritime rescue co-ordination centre during the consultation period but I have been to a number around the country to ensure that I hear a wide cross-section of views from the staff on the proposals on the modernisation of the HM Coastguard.

Rescue Services: Swansea

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many calls Swansea coastguard station received during hours of *(a)* daylight and *(b)* darkness in each month of 2010. [48177]

Mike Penning: It is not possible to provide data in respect of emergency 999 calls and radio calls in the format requested as the data cannot be easily related to the times of sunrise and sunset by season. However the Maritime and Coastguard Agency can confirm that the number of events (all entries in Command and Control system, excluding training, exercises and faults) Swansea Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre received during 2010 is as follows:

Swansea 2010

	Events between 09.00 and 19.00	*Events between 19.00 and 09.00*	*Total*
January	70	30	100
February	48	30	78
March	73	45	118
April	121	60	181
May	142	60	202
June	198	93	291
July	195	76	271
August	225	70	295
September	135	77	212
October	119	54	173
November	87	30	117
December	58	24	82
Total	1,471	649	2,120

Shipping: Oil

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the principal causes of unintentional deposits of oil into the sea by oil tankers in *(a)* UK and *(b)* East Anglian coastal waters. [49210]

Mike Penning: The Government monitor national trends in accidental oil pollution from ships including tankers through the annual report of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) report. This report incorporates information on the cause of each incident where known and allocates incidents to broad geographic areas. The reports are available on the following website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-pollutionresponse/mcga-dops_cp_environmental-counter-pollution.htm

and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Speed Limits: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 59W, on transport: Scotland, whether the implications of the provisions of the Scotland Bill for road speed limits were discussed during discussions with the Minister for Transport in the Scottish Government on road safety. [42040]

Mike Penning: No.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48195]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport (DfT) is committed to taking reasonable and practical steps to safeguard the physical and mental well-being of its employees, including reducing the risk of stress occurring in the workplace.

We are proactive in our approach and have a range of arrangements in place.

In all cases where the Department has been informed that work-related stress is a reason for an absence, managers must arrange medical advice through the Occupational Health Advisor, to assist recovery. DfT also provides various sources of confidential help and support through a confidential Employee Assistance Programme.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48283]

Norman Baker: The Department's general ledger does not identify whether bodies that receive funds from the Department hold charitable status. This question could therefore be answered only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of respect for religious freedom in Afghanistan. [45326]

Mr Hague: Our embassy in Kabul regularly reports back on developments regarding respect for religious freedom. Freedom of religion suffered setbacks in 2010, with Afghan parliamentarians' public calls for the execution of Christian converts and the subsequent imprisonment of several Afghans on charges of converting to Christianity.

The most recent reports have focused on the case of Mr Said Musa, one of the Christian converts who had been arrested but has since been released.

We monitor reports carefully and, together with our international partners, continue to remind the Afghan Government of their duty to abide by Afghanistan's national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief.

Bahrain: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals who have left Bahrain since the start of recent political developments on flights organised by other Governments. [48933]

Alistair Burt: No British nationals left Bahrain on flights organised by other Governments.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs his Department has incurred in chartering aircraft to Bahrain following recent political events. [48938]

Alistair Burt: The Department incurred £175,764 in costs for chartering aircraft to Bahrain, not including passenger taxes, catering and additional war risk insurance, for which the Department is still awaiting the final cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have used flights organised by his Department from Bahrain in 2011. [48955]

Alistair Burt: 16 British nationals and two EU dual nationals used the flights chartered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on charging *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals who used recent flights chartered by his Department from Bahrain. [48964]

Alistair Burt: The flights chartered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were supplementary flights to support the commercial flight capacity provided by airlines. This was not an evacuation. Our policy remains to recover costs from all those who were supported in this way.

BBC World Service

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence *(a)* he received and *(b)* the BBC World Service has received on proposals to close the BBC Hindi radio service. [47789]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has replied to a number of items of correspondence about the proposed cessation of the BBC Hindi short-wave service. It is not normal practice to publish letters from members of the public or other organisations without their permission.

We do not have copies of any correspondence that the BBC World Service may have received about this topic.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the human rights of individuals in that country. [49232]

Mr Bellingham: I met the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Foreign Minister three times in the second half of 2010. On each occasion I raised our concerns about the human rights situation and stressed the responsibility of the Government of the DRC to protect civilians and bring human rights abusers to justice.

Our ambassador to the DRC recently met Government figures including the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and stressed the need for the Government to protect freedom of expression for the Opposition, civil society, and journalists.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48422]

Alistair Burt: Since 11 May 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has spent £2,720 on additional indoor and outdoor plants and trees in the UK, purchased via the Facilities Management contract with Interserve FM. These plants are for public areas and once in situ are maintained and replaced at no additional cost to the FCO.

Maintaining existing indoor and outdoor plants and trees in the FCO in the UK is covered by the Grounds Maintenance element of the Facilities Management contract with Interserve FM. To disaggregate this data and to provide information for the FCO's overseas network would incur disproportionate cost.

In addition, £3,795 was spent on plants and plant stands for high profile international events at Lancaster House.

Egypt: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many seats were *(a)* available and *(b)* occupied on each of the flights recently chartered by his Department for passenger transport from Bahrain. [48917]

Alistair Burt: Of the 409 seats offered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on chartered flights, 18 were occupied.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have used flights organised by his Department from Egypt. [48952]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my response to him of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 713W.

Egypt: Elections

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the likely timing of elections in Egypt. [45321]

Mr Hague: The Government welcome the Egyptian interim Government's commitment to safeguard the legitimate demands of the Egyptian people and oversee a transition to democracy by holding free and fair elections. However, we understand that the Egyptian authorities have not yet determined the sequence and timing of the presidential and parliamentary elections. We continue to stress to the authorities the importance of a fully inclusive process leading to credible elections, and of holding parliamentary elections after presidential ones.

Iran: Detainees

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the conditions of those detained in Iran following the demonstrations in that country in early March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [49099]

Alistair Burt: There are worryingly few details available about those detained following demonstrations in Iran over the past weeks. The Iranian authorities have stated that they do not consider themselves obliged to give any details of those arrested or detained, which adds to existing and serious concerns about the integrity of the Iranian legal system. The situation regarding Mr Karroubi and Mr Mousavi is a case in point. I am also deeply disturbed at reports that those arrested are being forced to sign declarations stating that they will not protest again as a precondition to being released. We reiterate our call to the Iranian authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all those detained for exercising their right to peaceful protest.

Iraq

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had *(a)* with the US administration and *(b)* at international fora on conditions at Camp Ashraf. [49098]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy officials continue to discuss the situation at the Camp with the EU, US, UN and the Iraqi Government's Ashraf Committee. Our Deputy Head of Mission recently raised the issue of Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Human Rights Minister. We receive regular updates from the UN who visit the camp weekly and are in telephone contact with representatives of camp residents. Ultimately Camp Ashraf is in a sovereign Iraq and responsibility for the residents lies with the Iraqi Government. We will continue to encourage the Iraqi Government to treat the residents in line with international humanitarian standards and raise concerns where appropriate.

Japan: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many seats were *(a)* available and *(b)* occupied on each of the flights on aircraft recently chartered by his Department for passenger transport from Egypt. [48916]

Alistair Burt: There were approximately 220 seats available on each of the two Government-funded charter flights. On the first flight, there were 161 passengers and on the second, there were 76 passengers.

Libya: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have used flights organised by his Department from Libya in 2011. [48954]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 67W.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to assist spouses of UK nationals seeking to leave Libya who have not yet received entry clearance to enter the UK. [48021]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 22 March 2011]*: If any British national seeking to leave Libya as the result of this current crisis is travelling with a spouse or dependent children, and can prove their relationship, then the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will offer the same level of consular assistance as given to the British national. Where dependents of British citizens are receiving FCO consular assistance, the UK Border Agency will fast track entry clearance applications. Each case will be treated on its merits and on a case by case basis.

Libya: Mustard Gas

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the amount of mustard gas held in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [R] [48573]

Alistair Burt: The Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) gave a briefing to states' parties on 10 March 2011. They confirmed that over half of Libya's declared stockpile of 24 tonnes of sulphur mustard had been destroyed under verification by the OPCW's Technical Secretariat. Libya's remaining 11 tonnes of sulphur mustard is not weaponised and is awaiting destruction.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice on the situation in Libya his Department has provided to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in the last 12 months. [45379]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works closely with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), a joint FCO/ BIS department, to support UK trade around the globe and provide advice on all export licensing decisions. UKTI staff in London and our embassy staff in Libya gave detailed briefings and advice to visiting businessmen and trade mission participants up until February 2011 to keep them informed of political and economic developments and business opportunities in Libya. In the light of the rapidly changing events in Libya, the Government took the decision to revoke all export licences for equipment that could be used in internal repression and will refuse all future applications for military and security related goods and technology for the Gaddafi regime. This policy has now been reinforced by the UN and EU arms embargo.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to support rebel forces in Libya. [46414]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials are in close touch with the Interim Transitional National Council (ITNC) based in Benghazi and other anti-regime figures. This engagement has been vital in gaining a better understanding of the political, military and humanitarian situation in the country, in order to underpin our response to the crisis. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spoke by telephone to Mahmoud Jabril, Special Envoy of the Interim Transitional National Council, most recently on 22 March 2011, to discuss the situation on the ground and to invite him to visit London. We are calling on all those, including the ITNC, who believe that Colonel Gaddafi has lost legitimacy and led the people of Libya into an impasse, to begin to organise a transition process.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work the Government has conducted through the Commonwealth to relieve the humanitarian situation on the borders of Libya. [47761]

Mr Hague: The UK has worked closely with Commonwealth partners to relieve the humanitarian crisis taking place in Libya.

We are funding the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to co-ordinate repatriation flights from the Libyan border. We repatriated at least 521 Bangladeshis from the border with Tunisia as part of our efforts to prevent a logistical emergency becoming a humanitarian crisis. The IOM has been in close contact with the Government of Bangladesh, to ensure an appropriate reception for its citizens returning home on UK funded flights. In total, the UK has funded the repatriation of 12,000 people from the borders of Libya. We expect this to have included a number of Commonwealth citizens from sub-Saharan Africa.

We are in close contact with interested Commonwealth partners, regarding the situation in Libya and its borders.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department had with charter flight brokers on arrangements for the evacuation of UK citizens from Libya on *(a)* 20 February 2011 and *(b)* 21 February 2011. [48336]

Mr Hague: On 19 February 2011 our embassy in Tripoli had arranged for a domestic charter flight to fly British nationals from Benghazi to Tripoli on 20 February 2011. This plane was at the airport in Benghazi on 20 February 2011 but was unable to fly due to the closure of airspace. On 21 February 2011 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office considered a range of evacuation options from Libya and were in contact with flight brokers about possible charter flights from Tripoli on 22 February 2011.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 19 January and 18 February 2011 on his constituent Mr R. Mackey. [49356]

Mr Lidington: The Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), replied to my hon. Friend on 24 March 2011.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Government of Pakistan on the blasphemy laws in that country. [49497]

Alistair Burt: I raised the blasphemy laws with Pakistan's former Minister for Minorities Mr. Shahbaz Bhatti in January this year. My noble Friend the Lady Warsi also raised these issues with the Speaker of the Pakistan Parliament on 17 January 2011. Following Mr Bhatti's murder, the Prime Minister wrote to express his condolences to President Zardari. I made a statement condemning his killing, alongside the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Lady Warsi. We will continue to engage with the authorities in Pakistan on this issue.

Sri Lanka: Diplomatic Relations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will put in place diplomatic measures to improve bi-lateral relations with Sri Lanka. [49237]

Alistair Burt: We regularly engage with the Sri Lankans on a range of issues including migration, trade, human rights and political reform and reconciliation.

I visited Sri Lanka in February this year and met a number of senior Government Ministers, business leaders, opposition politicians and civil society groups.

We will continue to work with the Sri Lankan Government on the shared objective of lasting peace and prosperity including by addressing the legacy of the conflict. As I have previously set out to the House, we continue to have concerns about the human rights situation and media freedom.

Swaziland: Politics and Government

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking with his Commonwealth counterparts to increase progress towards democracy in Swaziland. [49441]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to my response to the hon. Member for Liverpool, West Derby (Stephen Twigg) on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 826W.

Tunisia: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many seats were *(a)* available and *(b)* occupied on each of the flights on aircraft recently chartered by his Department for passenger transport from Tunisia; [48919]

(2) what his Department's policy is on charging *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals who used recent flights chartered by his Department from Tunisia. [48962]

Alistair Burt: No flights were chartered for consular crisis reasons by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from Tunisia in 2011.

UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to include human rights monitoring in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara's mandate when it is renewed in April. [49219]

Alistair Burt: The UK fully supports UN-led efforts to reach a mutually acceptable and long-lasting political solution which provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Before finalising our negotiating position, we will consider carefully the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's report on Western Sahara, which is due to be presented to the Security Council shortly.

The Government continue to believe that transparency in the field of human rights is vital to building confidence between the parties. I personally raised the issue of Western Sahara during my visit to Morocco last December and stressed to the Moroccan authorities the benefits of considering a human rights monitoring presence on the ground. I also raised this matter with my Algerian counterpart when I visited Algiers in November 2010.

USA: Foreign Relations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he has spoken directly with the US Secretary of State since his appointment. [48270]

Mr Hague: Since my appointment, I have held frequent telephone conversations with the US Secretary of State on matters of international importance, and made two bilateral visits to the United States.

Additionally, I have attended numerous bilateral and multilateral meetings and conferences, at which the US Secretary of State was present.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will amend his Department's guidance on the wearing of the NATO/International Security Assistance Force medal for operational service in Afghanistan by service personnel who have been awarded the Operational Service Medal for service in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [47525]

Nick Harvey: A review of the rules governing the award of medals has considered the principles underpinning the award of medals. In doing so, appropriate consideration has been given to the 'double medal' rule and the principles regarding the award of foreign medals, including the NATO ISAF medal.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Mr Robathan) on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 562W, to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr Brine). The review recently reported its findings to Defence Ministers; the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minster will now evaluate these proposals before any final conclusions are reached.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of armed forces personnel to be stationed in Afghanistan in each year to 2015. [48829]

Nick Harvey: The rate at which UK armed forces draw down between now and 2015 will be based on conditions on the ground and the changing role of International Security Assistance Force as the transition process proceeds.

As yet, it is too early to estimate exactly what the size of the UK force will be for each year to 2015.

Armed Forces: Absent without Leave

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (1) armed forces personnel were subject to detention or incarceration for going absent without leave in 2010; and how many were under the age of 18 at the time of the offence; [45481]

(2) *(a)* trained strength and *(b)* in training armed forces personnel went absent without leave in 2010; and how many were under the age of 18. [45482]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The records of the Military Corrective Training Centre show that in 2010 there were 742 detainees who were subject to detention for absent without leave (AWOL) offences. A number of these individuals may have been charged with further offences other than AWOL.

Records indicate that 10 of these detainees were under 18 at the time of the offence. However, central records do not differentiate between trained and untrained personnel recorded as AWOL, for all three services.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel aged under 18 years were serving a sentence in the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester for having gone absent without leave in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many personnel aged under 18 years have been found guilty by court martial in the last two years for having gone absent without leave. [46615]

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces aged under 18 years were detained in the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, for being absent without leave in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [41588]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 March 2011]*: The number of service personnel detained at the Military Corrective Training Centre for being absent without leave (AWOL) who were under 18 at the time of their detention, is as follows:

	Under 18s detained
2008	1
2009	2
2010	1

Our records indicate that no individuals under the age of 18 were convicted at court martial for AWOL offences for the past two years.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal advice he has received on the definition in law of the term covenant. [48981]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence's legal team is fully engaged in the development of the Armed Forces Covenant.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department made to preparing the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 25 June 2010 that the Government would write into law a new military covenant. [49000]

Nick Harvey: In line with standard departmental procedures the Prime Minister is regularly briefed on matters of Defence including the Armed Forces Covenant.

Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to amend the practice of administering a secondary punishment to military personnel who come into contact with civilian judicial authorities. [47524]

Nick Harvey: No. Although service personnel cannot be prosecuted for the same offence in both military and civil courts, the armed forces reserve the right to award administrative sanctions.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have been issued with notifications of termination of contract in the last 12 months. [43406]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 2 March 2011]*: The Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force have differing conditions of service that permit their personnel to apply to extend their service at certain points during a career to meet Service and individual needs.

In the case of the Army, a soldier can apply, or be offered, to change his terms of service to the long service list or versatile engagement long career terms. In both cases these are for limited periods of time and allow for the Army to reduce the period of extension if there is a requirement to do so. Since 1 March 2010, 51 soldiers serving on either the long service list or the versatile engagement long career have received notification to discharge, following decisions not to grant extensions to their contracts of employment.

Similarly, the Royal Air Force allows for certain ranks and trades to apply to continue their service beyond their normal engagement to meet a Service need. Short periods of continuance in service can be granted but individuals are made fully aware that this extension of service is kept under constant review and may be subject to change. Since 1 April 2010, some 242 personnel serving on continuance in service have had their service reduced and have been subsequently discharged, following requests these personnel have made to extend their contracts of employment.

There have been no members of the Royal Navy subject to a change of their terms of service for wholly Service reasons.

Armed Forces: Officers

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK serving commissioned officers are working in NATO Headquarters; and how many of these are *(a)* direct entry and *(b)* late entry commissioned officers. [48780]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 24 March 2011]*: There are 528 UK commissioned officers serving in various NATO Headquarters. The numbers of these that are direct entry and late entry are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were recruited by the Careers Information Office to the *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Army and *(c)* Navy in the (1) City of Kingston upon Hull local authority area in 2009-10; [47355]

(2) West Oxfordshire local authority area in 2009-10. [47356]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 March 2011]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Mr Robathan) on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 211W, to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson).

Armed Forces: Surveys

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey 2011 will be published. [48895]

Nick Harvey: The Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) conducted in 2010 will be published on 31 March 2011. The AFCAS for 2011 is currently being conducted and we hope to publish it in the autumn.

Armed Forces: Training

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel have been trained to undertake duties within prisons as part of contingency plans to deal with any potential industrial action by prison staff; how much such training has cost to date; what training has been given to such personnel as part of such plans; and how many such personnel have been designated to support the National Offender Management Service as part of such plans. [48850]

Nick Harvey: Work is under way between the Ministries of Justice and Defence to prepare military personnel to support the National Offender Management Service in the event of widespread industrial action in prisons.

Contingency measures have been put in place by the National Offender Management Service to strengthen the security and safety of prisons in the event of industrial action within prisons. Disclosing the number of military personnel trained and the number designated to support the National Offender Management Service would undermine these measures.

As the training is still under way the costs incurred so far are not yet confirmed. However costs are being captured by the Ministry of Defence and a total cost will be available once training has been completed.

With respect to the training given to military personnel, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt), on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1280W.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many occasions a former member of the armed forces has taken action against his Department in respect of an alleged failure of a duty of care. [41024]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested.

Boarding Schools

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are eligible for assistance for boarding school fees for their children; how many officials receive such assistance; and what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median levels of assistance provided in respect of each child were in the latest period for which figures are available. [48520]

Nick Harvey: The number of Ministry of Defence (MOD) civil servants that received Civilian Schooling Allowance (paid to eligible MOD civil servants while working overseas) during Financial Year 2009-10 was 83. The mean figure is £9,778 per child and the median figure is £9,258.

China: Internet

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the effects on UK defence assets of the re-routing of internet traffic by servers belonging to China Telecom on 8 April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [49103]

Nick Harvey: We do not comment on the detail of protective measures or cyber security incidents.

The Department has procedural and physical measures in place to protect against and mitigate the impact of such situations.

Defence Suppliers Forum

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he plans to announce the membership of the Defence Suppliers Forum; [48983]

(2) what the remit of the Defence Suppliers Forum will be. [48984]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Secretary of State recently announced that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is establishing a Defence Suppliers Forum, which will include representation from the full range of the Department's suppliers, from the UK and overseas, and which will better reflect defence-related industry as a whole, including small and medium-sized enterprises and the service sector.

The forum's remit will cover all aspects of MOD's relationships with its suppliers, with a focus on obtaining maximum value for money.

Having sought views from interested parties we expect to announce the composition of the new forum in the next few weeks.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48426]

Nick Harvey: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on plants and trees across the defence estate is determined by business need and must be appropriate, cost effective and a proper charge to public funds.

The MOD Defence Estates organisation and the Woodland Trust have recently joined forces in a partnership that will result in the planting of many hectares of woodland both to enable our armed forces to train more effectively for military operations and to help increase the UK's woodland cover in the interests of mitigating the effects of climate change and providing renewable energy. The cost of this programme is not, however, borne by the MOD.

Devonport Dockyard

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the Landing Craft Relocation project at HM Naval Base Devonport. [48909]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Work is proceeding on the assessment phase of the Devonport Landing Craft Collocation Project. The project is planned to move to the build phase, subject to Main Gate approval, this summer.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which warships and auxiliaries his Department expects to be based at HM Naval Base Devonport in *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2025. [48961]

Nick Harvey: At this time, we have no plans to change the base porting arrangements at Devonport. However, base porting arrangements for Royal Navy vessels are kept under constant review and the Department is currently considering whether there is a case to change the base porting arrangements for the Type 23 frigates.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels do not have base porting arrangements, but rather utilise the naval base that is appropriate to their operational tasking or replenishment requirements.

The vessels currently base ported at Devonport, including the remaining Type 22s which are due to be decommissioned before 2015, are:

Type	*Name*
Amphibious (LPH)	Ocean
Amphibious (LPD)	Albion
Amphibious (LPD)	Bulwark
Type 22	Campbeltown
Type 22	Cornwall
Type 22	Cumberland
Type 23	Montrose
Type 23	Northumberland
Type 23	Monmouth
Type 23	Sutherland
Type 23	Somerset
Type 23	Portland
Type 23	Argyll
Hydrographic	Scott
Hydrographic	Gleaner
Hydrographic	Echo
Hydrographic	Enterprise
P2000	Raider

Ex-servicemen

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the merits of making regular reports to the House on implications for UK veterans of the developments and research carried out by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and its Gulf War Veterans Illness Task Force. [45314]

Nick Harvey: The UK maintains close relations with the US Government. The Ministry of Defence currently has a British liaison officer based in Washington DC to help ensure that the UK has full visibility of US research into Gulf veterans' illnesses (GVI) issues, and providing a channel for communicating our own work to interested US parties. The US Department of Veterans Affairs publishes information on GVI issues on their website so any new information is easily available to interested parties. In the event of any significant research being published in the US or elsewhere that throws further light on the illnesses reported by some Gulf veterans then we would bring this to the attention of the House. We do not believe however that an additional regular report is necessary at this time.

Gurkhas

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* compensation and *(b)* other support is available to Gurkhas serving in the Army who are injured or disabled as a result of service; and what advice is made available on access to such support. [45967]

Nick Harvey: Gurkhas are entitled to the same level of compensation and support as any other service personnel. The Chain of Command and the Army Welfare Service are able to provide practical advice and support to service personnel and their families and signpost to welfare organisations as required.

HMS Caroline

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the future of the training ship HMS Caroline. [48928]

Nick Harvey: We have agreed in principle to gift the ship to the National Museum of the Royal Navy. This is subject to the development of a viable heritage business plan for the ship and parliamentary approval. As well as the National Museum being able to fund the day-to-day responsibility for the ship, following decommissioning on 31 March, a heritage plan is required to be developed in consultation with the NI authorities and others.

HMS Cumberland

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role HMS Cumberland has played in protecting the Al Basra oil terminal. [48927]

Nick Harvey: HMS Cumberland provided security, surveillance and support to the Al Basrah oil terminal during her tasking under Commander Task Force Iraqi Maritime (CTF-IM) in December 2010. The UK works alongside the US and the Iraqi Navy and Marines to maintain security around the oil terminals in the Arabian Gulf.

HMS Cumberland and HMS Cornwall

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what ports visits *(a)* HMS Cumberland and *(b)* HMS Cornwall have made during their current deployments. [48923]

Nick Harvey: The port visits made as at 22 March 2011 by HMS Cumberland and by HMS Cornwall during their current deployments were as follows:

HMS Cumberland

Gibraltar, Palermo, Jeddah, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah, Dubai, Muscat, Soudha Bay, Naples, Cagliari and also entered the ports of Benghazi and Valletta as part of the evacuation of entitled personnel from Libya.

HMS Cornwall

Algiers, Soudha Bay, Muscat, Fujairah, Salalah, Dubai.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many vessels have been *(a)* queried and *(b)* boarded by HMS Cumberland during her current deployment; [48925]

(2) how many vessels have been *(a)* queried and *(b)* boarded by HMS Cornwall during her current deployment. [48926]

Nick Harvey: On current deployments: HMS Cumberland has queried a total of 256 vessels and conducted 40 alongside assurance visits where a boarding party goes alongside vessels to gather information, assist in developing the patterns of life for that specific area and offer assurance against maritime crime. HMS Cornwall has queried a total of 173 vessels and boarded 10 vessels.

Libya: Missiles

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many missiles were fired at targets in Libya from *(a)* RAF Tornado aircraft and *(b)* Royal Navy ships and submarines on 19 March 2011. [48904]

Nick Harvey: On 19 March 2011, a number of missiles were fired from RAF Tornado aircraft and Royal Navy submarines at targets in Libya. No missiles were fired from any Royal Navy ships in the region. I am withholding the exact number of missiles fired as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Libya: No-fly Zone

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total level of resources the UK will provide to the implementation of the no-fly zone in Libya. [49380]

Nick Harvey: It is too early to give a robust estimate of the costs of the operations in Libya. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has confirmed that the net additional costs of operations in Libya will be fully met from the reserve.

Libya: Tornado Aircraft

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado aircraft stationed at RAF Marham were in a fit condition to participate in the first air strike against targets in Libya on 19 March 2011. [48900]

Nick Harvey: On 19 March 2011, there were 72 Tornado GR4 aircraft available to the front line squadrons in UK of which 36 were at RAF Marham. This figure is a snapshot as the number of aircraft assigned to front line squadrons will vary on a daily basis according to normal fleet management activities, including requirements for mandated maintenance and upgrade programmes.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Project

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Project; and if he will make a statement. [48947]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme is in its assessment phase, and the Ministry of Defence issued an advertisement for an international competition in October 2009 for the MARS tankers. Following expressions of interest from industry, six bidders were invited to submit outline solutions. In October 2010, the bidders were invited to submit more detailed solutions and the resulting bids are currently the subject of discussions between the MOD and the bidders. On current plans, final bids are expected to be requested later this year.

In addition to the MARS tankers, the solid support capability elements, intended to be provided by the MARS programme, remain uncommitted at this stage.

Military Tattoos

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on holding military tattoos, festivals and other events open to the public. [40141]

Nick Harvey: It is important that members of the public are able to show their support for the armed forces by attending events that have an armed forces theme. This can range from local community engagement activities, such as open days, through to commercially-run air shows or military tattoos.

When planning an event, organisers must take into account a number of factors and present a business case for approval through their chain of command. The event will not be approved unless judged as cost-effective, beneficial to the Services or Ministry of Defence and has a clear purpose.

Navy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* status and *(b)* operational tasking is of each of the Royal Navy's (i) Type 23 frigates, (ii) Type 22 Batch 3 frigates, (iii) Type 42 destroyers and (iv) Type 45 destroyers. [48907]

Mr Gerald Howarth: As of 23 March 2010 the operational tasking and status for each of the Royal Navy's frigates and destroyers by type is shown in the following table.

	Operational tasking and status
Type 23	
HMS Argyll	Operational Sea Training
HMS Iron Duke	Op Telic
HMS Kent	Refit
HMS Lancaster	Refit
HMS Montrose	Fleet Ready Escort
HMS Monmouth	Maritime Security UK Waters
HMS Northumberland	Refit
HMS Portland	Assisted Maintenance Period
HMS Richmond	Op Atalanta

	Operational tasking and status
HMS Somerset	Towed Array Patrol Ship
HMS St Albans	Operational Sea Training
HMS Sutherland	Maritime Security UK Waters
HMS Westminster	Op Ellamy
Type 22	
HMS Campbeltown	Training in UK waters
HMS Cornwall	Op Calash
HMS Cumberland	Op Ellamy
Type 42	
HMS Edinburgh	Maritime Security UK Waters
HMS Gloucester	Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South)
HMS Liverpool	Pre Deployment Leave
HMS York	Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South)
Type 45	
HMS Daring	Maritime Security UK Waters
HMS Dauntless	Operational Sea Training

Op Telic is maintaining the integrity and security of Iraqi territorial seas; Op Calash is counter piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian sea, gulf of Aden, and North Indian ocean; Op Atalanta refers to EU counter piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian ocean; and Op Ellamy is the operation in support of UN Security Council resolution 1973.

Also identified in the list is Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South), a standing naval commitment to the South Atlantic and west African regions, which provides a maritime presence to protect the British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the UK's interests in the region.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Ministers from other Government Departments have visited Royal Navy *(a)* ships, *(b)* submarines or *(c)* shore establishments since his appointment; [48957]

(2) which Ministers from other Government Departments have met senior naval personnel since his appointment. [48958]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is not held centrally. The First Sea Lord and senior naval personnel do, however, engage with Government Ministers on a regular basis in conducting their day-to-day business.

P2000 Training Vessels

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what long-term plans he has for replacement of the P2000 training vessels. [48950]

Mr Gerald Howarth: No decisions have yet been taken on the replacement of the P2000 training vessels.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: Scotland

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans and serving members of the armed forced by GPs in Scotland. [43719]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary (Dr Fox) gave him in the debate held on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 489.

Ministry of Defence officials work very closely with the UK Health Departments on issues relating to support to serving and former Service personnel with mental health needs, in particular through the Partnership Board which brings together senior officials and medical experts in the MOD and the four UK Health Departments. The community mental health pilot in Edinburgh continues and all former Service personnel can now access the Combat Stress Support Helpline being delivered by the charity Rethink Mental Illness and funded by Government.

Rescue Services

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he expects the staffing level of *(a)* RNAS Prestwick, *(b)* RAF Boulmer, *(c)* RAF Chivenor, *(d)* DST Leconfield, *(e)* RAF Valley, *(f)* RAF Wattisham, *(g)* RNAS Culdrose, *(h)* HMCG Lee-on-the-Solent, *(i)* HMCG Portland, *(j)* HMCG Stornoway, *(k)* HMCG Sumburgh and *(l)* RAF Lossiemouth to be in the next five years. [48264]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* Following termination of the planned Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) procurement on 8 February 2011, the Minisfry of Defence and the Department for Transport are reviewing the future provision of helicopter search and rescue for the UK. Long term staffing levels at each of these bases will not be confirmed until that process has concluded. Nevertheless, I do not anticipate any significant changes to staff numbers at the eight RAF stations before 2014, and at the four HM Coastguard stations before 2013.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48212]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a policy for managing stress in the workplace developed from the Health and Safety Executive Management Standards for work-related stress. The implementation of stress management policies is the responsibility of local management or service commands. The details of the policy can be found on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C354C616-E9B8-4FBC-930C-859ABABA887C/0/leaf_25.pdf

MOD has several internal on-line awareness courses aimed at both the individual and the line manager available to all staff (including armed forces personnel) which provide guidance in identifying and dealing with stress. Civilian line managers are required to inform the MOD's internal Occupational Welfare Service (OWS) when a civilian member of staff is absent because of stress so that early intervention action can be undertaken. The OWS can provide advice and support on a wide range of work-related and personal problems that may affect performance and/or attendance at work.

A similar policy exists for the members of the armed forces, in which the individual's Commanding Officer has a duty to advise Military Welfare if a member of their command is showing signs of stress. Armed forces personnel also have access to the following individuals and organisations: Medical Officer, Padre, Sailors, Soldiers and Air Force Association, Military Welfare officers or Defence Community Mental Health Nurses. The armed forces have additional arrangements to deal with stress associated with pre and post operational deployments that are different from the normal perception of stress related to the work place because of the nature of their work.

Third Sector

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department is making to the Government's big society initiative. [45786]

Dr Fox: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 224-25W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane).

Veterans Identity Card

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made with proposals to introduce a veterans identity card. [49632]

Nick Harvey: On 8 December 2010, the report of the independent Taskforce on the Military Covenant was published, and made available in the Library of the House. This recommended consideration of a veterans' privilege card. The report is being studied carefully and the Government will respond in the spring.

Warships

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what role Royal Navy mine countermeasures vessels play in supporting the strategic nuclear deterrent; [48920]

(2) what role anti-submarine frigates play in supporting the strategic nuclear deterrent; [48921]

(3) how many days a year he expects Type 23 frigates to be tasked with duties in support of the nuclear deterrent previously undertaken by maritime patrol aircraft. [48922]

Nick Harvey: Mine counter measures vessels conduct regular mine warfare surveys in support of the strategic nuclear deterrent.

Type 23 Frigates provide the towed array patrol ship for reactive anti-submarine patrol duties in support of the strategic nuclear deterrent.

A ship is maintained at high readiness for this task 365 days a year. This has been unchanged by the maritime patrol aircraft decision.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he is giving to the requirements of legislation on single-hulled tankers in his plans for the disposal of RFA Fort George. [48949]

Mr Gerald Howarth: RFA Fort George will be disposed of in line with the Ministry of Defence's policy for disposing of surplus defence equipment. We will look first at the feasibility of a sale to other governments for continued military use. Should this not prove viable, we would then explore other options such as a sale to a private commercial enterprise. In their proposals, potential buyers will be expected to provide evidence of their intended use for the ship and that this use would comply with the relevant legislation. As RFA Fort George is a single-hulled tanker this will include the provisions of the Maritime Pollution (MARPOL) Convention if the ship will continue to be used to store or transport oil.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the proposed relationship is between the Future Surface Combatant *(a)* C1 variant and *(b)* C2 variant and the Type 26 Global Combat Ship. [48960]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The C1 and C2 variants of the Future Surface Combatant programme have been combined in the requirement which the Type 26 Global Combat Ship is being designed to meet.

EDUCATION

Academies

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of progress on the academies programme in *(a)* Erewash constituency and *(b)* England. [38195]

Mr Gibb: At present, six schools in the Erewash constituency have expressed an interest in becoming an academy. Of these, Kirk Hallam Community Technology and Sports college opened as an academy on 1 March 2011. The Long Eaton school has an academy order and is due to convert soon. The Bennerley school is also due to open as a sponsored academy on 1 September 2011. Details of the remaining schools considering academy status are not released at this stage.

In England, as of 4 March 2011 the total number of academies open is 467, of which 264 opened since September 2010, and 195 of these are converters.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the DfE academies website at

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a00698111/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011.

Academies: GCSE

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of Key Stage Four exam entries was in academic non-applied GCSE subjects for each academy in 2009-10; and how many such students were in receipt of free school meals. [44452]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects in academies in 2010 and the number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and took academic non-applied GCSE subjects

Academy name	*Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects*	*FSM*
St Paul's Academy	67.4	40
Mossbourne Community Academy	67.4	116
The Petchey Academy	99.4	31
Burlington Danes Academy	71.0	105
St Mary Magdalene Academy	86.9	[1]—
City of London Academy—Islington	81.3	136
Lambeth Academy	79.8	71
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	54.5	105
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	49.6	92
St Matthew Academy	60.3	20
City of London Academy (Southwark)	70.1	91
Harris Academy at Peckham	57.9	168
Harris Academy Bermondsey	56.7	179
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	46.7	49
Walworth Academy	57.4	105
St Michael and All Angels CofE Academy	62.3	75
Bacon's College	94.6	114
Globe Academy	57.8	63
Ashcroft Technology Academy	58.9	103
Paddington Academy	48.1	153
Westminster Academy	54.3	114
Pimlico Academy	75.2	119
London Academy	60.1	155
The Business Academy Bexley	49.8	92
Harris Academy Falconwood	45.2	29
Capital City Academy	68.1	104
The Crest Girls Academy	70.9	148
The Crest Boys Academy	42.6	109
Harris Academy South Norwood	49.9	45
Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	61.7	53
Oasis Academy Coulsdon	74.1	36
Harris Academy Purley	60.6	36
Oasis Academy Shirley Park	52.5	44
West London Academy	58.8	174
Oasis Academy Hadley	65.3	208
Greig City Academy	68.6	108
Stockley Academy	57.9	112
The Harefield Academy	46.1	28
Harris Academy Merton	47.6	69
St Marks Church of England Academy	70.0	35
Walthamstow Academy	61.8	59
Heartlands Academy	67.0	110
Shenley Academy	61.6	89
St Alban's Academy	50.3	93
North Birmingham Academy	43.6	230
Grace Academy Coventry	44.8	48
Sandwell Academy	57.1	50
Shireland Collegiate Academy	44.4	130
George Salter Collegiate Academy	36.7	95
Q3 Academy	70.0	31
RSA Academy	34.8	53
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	63.3	31
Grace Academy Solihull	60.4	93
Park Hall Academy	43.0	58
CTC Kingshurst Academy	46.3	85
Walsall Academy	59.8	57
Sheffield Community Academy	36.3	107
Grace Academy Darlaston	50.3	76
South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy	46.6	101
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi	54.4	135
North Liverpool Academy	28.8	179
The Belvedere Academy	64.1	24
Birkenhead High School Academy	69.6	[1]—
Essa Academy	50.3	144

Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects in academies in 2010 and the number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and took academic non-applied GCSE subjects

Academy name	*Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects*	*FSM*
Bolton St Catherine's Academy	46.5	108
Manchester Academy	49.9	137
William Hulme's Grammar School	66.6	18
Manchester Enterprise Academy	66.9	112
Manchester Health Academy	39.3	64
Manchester Creative and Media Academy for Girls	36.6	100
Manchester Creative and Media Academy for Boys	56.8	77
St Anne's Academy	51.8	97
Salford City Academy	58.9	29
Oasis Academy MediaCityUK	59.3	40
Stockport Academy	62.4	56
New Charter Academy	48.4	66
Droylsden Academy	55.8	88
The Barnsley Academy	30.9	54
Trinity Academy	50.7	72
De Warenne Academy	54.8	53
Outwood Academy Adwick	32.4	89
Maltby Academy	60.0	77
Sheffield Park Academy	50.0	140
Sheffield Springs Academy	57.0	102
Parkwood Academy	52.5	100
Dixons City Academy	45.1	27
Bradford Academy	49.7	148
Appleton Academy	47.1	36
Dixons Allerton Academy	62.9	122
David Young Community Academy	39.7	128
Leeds West Academy	47.1	108
South Leeds Academy	52.1	130
Outwood Grange Academy	37.0	39
Excelsior Academy	37.8	117
Academy 360	52.6	90
Castle View Enterprise Academy	60.2	70
Red House Academy	54.2	32
The City Academy Bristol	50.0	235
Bristol Brunel Academy	44.2	67
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	93.4	3
Colston's Girls' School	63.0	3
Merchants' Academy	45.3	74
Oasis Academy Bristol	43.0	29
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	55.2	22
Bristol Metropolitan Academy	50.0	49
John Cabot Academy	55.0	16
The Ridings Federation Yate International Academy	55.1	22
The Ridings Federation Winterbourne International Academy	71.2	11
Unity City Academy	30.6	96
The King's Academy	59.5	38
Macmillan Academy	57.3	143
Archbishop Sentamu Academy	39.8	157
Sirius Academy	47.6	96
Oasis Academy Immingham	43.7	41
Oasis Academy Wintringham	40.1	79
Havelock Academy	61.2	75
The St Lawrence Academy	47.3	24
Barnfield West Academy Luton	29.5	49
Barnfield South Academy Luton	66.0	87
All Saints Academy Dunstable	58.7	38
Aylesbury Vale Academy	56.2	14
The Milton Keynes Academy	43.2	61
Landau Forte College	68.2	23
St Aidans Church of England Academy	48.5	53
Charter Academy	43.5	54
Oasis Academy Lord's Hill	47.8	59
Oasis Academy Mayfield	76.0	29

Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects in academies in 2010 and the number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and took academic non-applied GCSE subjects

Academy name	*Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects*	*FSM*
The Wellington Academy	48.7	10
Swindon Academy	66.4	64
John Madejski Academy	51.1	105
The Langley Academy	69.3	59
Thomas Deacon Academy	52.3	101
Ormiston Bushfield Academy	48.3	53
New Rickstones Academy	71.0	39
Greensward Academy	46.9	20
Maltings Academy	56.7	16
The Basildon Upper Academy	40.0	165
Clacton Coastal Academy	47.5	80
The Gateway Academy	39.3	78
Ormiston Park Academy	37.3	35
Hereford Academy	35.9	34
Steiner Academy Hereford	58.5	4
Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	40.5	28
The Marlowe Academy	39.6	78
Folkestone Academy	48.9	72
Marsh Academy	53.1	28
The Leigh Technology Academy	43.6	33
Spires Academy	39.1	22
New Line Learning Academy	36.7	75
Cornwallis Academy	50.2	33
Longfield Academy	57.6	33
The Isle of Sheppey Academy	52.4	85
Skinners' Kent Academy	43.2	30
Strood Academy	57.8	42
Accrington Academy	54.1	97
Fulwood Academy	68.5	43
Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	54.9	59
Samworth Church Academy	53.8	42
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	42.3	114
Nottingham University Samworth Academy	57.9	81
Nottingham Academy	40.7	159
The Bulwell Academy	41.0	107
Madeley Academy	47.9	82
Abraham Darby	51.1	71
University of Chester CE Academy	58.0	85
Richard Rose Morton Academy	55.6	23
Richard Rose Central Academy	64.8	75
West Lakes Academy	63.6	26
Furness Academy	66.7	83
Francis Combe Academy	58.3	35
The Bushey Academy	55.1	42
Priory Witham Academy	30.5	45
Priory City of Lincoln Academy	54.9	63
Priory Academy LSST	61.8	6
Trent Valley Academy	59.7	60
St George's Academy	56.5	45
The Open Academy	62.5	26
City Academy Norwich	58.8	66
Northampton Academy	52.3	61
Corby Business Academy	38.7	59
Brooke Weston Academy	54.4	16
Kettering Buccleuch Academy	69.3	45
Kettering Science Academy	64.7	63
Northumberland CofE Academy	47.9	72
North Oxfordshire Academy	39.5	34
Oxford Academy	65.0	56
The Sir Robert Woodard Academy	63.6	50
The Littlehampton Academy	68.1	40
Midhurst Rother College	56.8	7
Shoreham Academy	55.7	29

[1] Suppression due to small numbers.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of academy Key Stage Four exam entries in 2009-10 were in *(a)* academic GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications equivalent to A* to C GCSEs; and how many such students were in receipt of free school meals in each case; [44453]

(2) what proportion of academy GCSEs A* to C grades or equivalent in 2009-10 were *(a)* academic GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications judged to be equivalent to A* to C GCSEs. [44454]

Mr Gibb: We are not able to give entry data for qualifications which are counted as equivalent to an A* to C GCSE as we only receive the final grades for these qualifications.

There is no way of identifying the numbers who sit but do not pass them.

Of the entries about which we do have information, the proportion of GCSE and equivalent entries in 2010 in academies were divided as follows:

53.4%—for academic GCSEs
2.4%—for applied GCSEs
44.2%—for other equivalent qualifications

The number of students eligible for free school meals (FSM) who took selected qualification types (as defined above) in 2010 in academies are as follows:

7,600—entered for academic GCSEs
1,145—entered for applied GCSEs
7,158—entered for other equivalent qualifications

The proportion of A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2010 in academies were divided as follows:

43.4%—in academic GCSEs
4.9%—in applied GCSEs
51.7%—in other qualifications equivalent to an A* to C GCSE

Qualifications counted as GCSE entries includes iGCSEs, short courses which are counted as half an entry and Double Awards which are counted as two entries.

Source:
Performance Table

Departmental Hospitality

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48355]

Tim Loughton: Nothing.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he made of the cost to the Exchequer of continuing the full Building Schools for the Future programme. [15217]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July last year, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced the ending of the programme apart from some of the furthest advanced projects. After taking account of those projects that are due to complete, at a cost of around £4 billion over the next four years, continuing with the programme would have cost more than a further £40 billion.

CAFCASS

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the productivity of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [47082]

Tim Loughton: I monitor CAFCASS's productivity as part of my quarterly accountability meetings with the service. CAFCASS calculates its productivity by comparing the level of unallocated work at the end of each month with that at the start of April 2010, and analysing the degree to which an increased level of work has been absorbed without a permanent increase in resources. On this basis CAFCASS's productivity increased by 7.7% in the most recent period considered (May 2010 to December 2010). An indication of this is that CAFCASS is providing guardians for children in 12,624 cases now compared to only 10,518 cases a year ago.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps are taken by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to assist children affected by joint custody arrangements which cover more than one local authority area. [47083]

Tim Loughton: There are no practical differences in the way that CAFCASS handles shared residence cases specifically in situations where parents live in different local authority areas. In all family law cases the focus of CAFCASS's work is the best interests of the child. This focus applies equally to shared residence arrangements as to any other type of arrangement. Where CAFCASS officers assess that a child is at risk they will refer the case to the relevant local authority.

Chemistry: Teachers

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to improve *(a)* quality and *(b)* quantity of chemistry teachers. [49131]

Mr Gibb: We are considering a number of proposals to improve the training of teachers so that standards of teaching are raised in schools. It is the Government's ambition to improve the prestige of the profession so that it attracts the highest quality entrants and to base more initial teacher training in schools so that trainees spend as much time in the classroom, learning from the best teachers. For example, we have already announced plans to expand the successful scheme Teach First so that more schools may benefit from the talents of the country's best graduates. A significant proportion of Teach First participants teach the most demanding shortage subjects, including the science disciplines. Expanding the scheme should therefore help boost the supply of chemistry teachers.

The Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", also sets out the Government's commitment to attract more of the best graduates of priority subjects into teaching. We are reviewing the routes into teaching and the incentives offered to well qualified people who want to teach priority subjects and will publish a strategy document for discussion later this year setting out our plans for funding initial teacher training from academic year 2012/13 to meet our policy aims.

The Secretary of State for Education wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools on 31 January 2011 with the details of the initial teacher training place allocations and financial incentives for 2011/12. We have decided that there should be individual targets for the science disciplines for that period, including a target of 1,070 chemistry training places, as opposed to an overall allocation for science as has been set in previous years. We have also confirmed that chemistry graduates will continue to receive the highest level of training bursary at £9,000 in recognition of the recruitment priority we give the subject.

Children In care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children were looked after in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [48309]

Tim Loughton: Information on the proportion of children who were looked after in each local authority area in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

This information has also been published in table LAA1 in the Statistical First Release "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2010", which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1] [2]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Number[3]			Rates[4]		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England	59,400	60,900	64,400	54	55	58
North East	3,260	3,250	3,650	61	61	69
Darlington	135	130	145	61	59	65
Durham	410	440	495	40	43	49
Gateshead	290	290	300	74	75	78
Hartlepool	150	150	165	72	73	81
Middlesbrough	270	275	325	85	87	104
Newcastle upon Tyne	455	460	525	87	89	100
North Tyneside	230	210	275	57	53	69
Northumberland	300	270	285	49	44	47
Redcar and Cleveland	140	140	155	46	47	54
South Tyneside	260	260	295	84	84	96
Stockton-on-Tees	225	235	285	53	55	67
Sunderland	390	395	390	67	68	69
North West	10,300	10,600	11,180	69	71	75
Blackburn with Darwen	305	320	360	79	83	94
Blackpool	280	325	375	93	109	128
Bolton	420	435	480	68	70	77
Bury	300	290	290	70	69	69
Cheshire[5]	565	655	n/a	39	45	n/a
Cheshire East[5]	n/a	n/a	430	n/a	n/a	57
Cheshire West and Chester[5]	n/a	n/a	320	n/a	n/a	47
Cumbria	480	450	510	48	45	52
Halton	150	160	145	54	57	54
Knowsley	305	305	295	87	87	87
Lancashire	1,275	1,255	1,285	51	50	52
Liverpool	845	860	910	96	99	107
Manchester	1,430	1,410	1,425	151	148	149
Oldham	340	325	350	62	59	64
Rochdale	350	405	435	70	82	88
Salford	535	490	495	115	105	106
Sefton	315	365	375	54	64	67
St Helens	315	325	355	81	84	93
Stockport	310	315	315	51	52	53
Tameside	310	330	350	64	68	73
Trafford	235	240	250	49	50	52
Warrington	200	245	265	46	57	62
Wigan	425	485	520	64	73	78
Wirral	610	625	630	90	93	94
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,540	6,720	7,050	59	61	64
Barnsley	255	260	245	53	54	50

Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1] [2]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

						Number and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years
		Number[3]			*Rates[4]*	
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Bradford	840	875	885	66	69	69
Calderdale	250	270	270	55	60	59
Doncaster	400	425	465	63	66	74
East Riding of Yorkshire	260	255	275	39	38	42
Kingston upon Hull, City of	540	525	575	99	97	106
Kirklees	445	505	555	48	54	59
Leeds	1,360	1,340	1,415	89	88	93
North East Lincolnshire	150	150	155	42	43	44
North Lincolnshire	155	155	160	45	45	47
North Yorkshire	410	415	470	34	34	39
Rotherham	345	405	405	61	72	73
Sheffield	640	595	580	60	56	54
Wakefield	325	350	375	47	50	55
York	170	200	225	48	58	64
East Midlands	3,730	3,920	4,220	40	42	45
Derby	405	425	420	76	80	79
Derbyshire	545	550	630	34	34	40
Leicester	450	460	490	65	66	70
Leicestershire	310	325	330	23	25	25
Lincolnshire	530	540	520	38	39	38
Northamptonshire	555	645	700	36	42	46
Nottingham	475	475	520	85	85	93
Nottinghamshire	450	480	580	28	30	36
Rutland	15	20	30	15	19	32
West Midlands	7,370	7,640	8,010	61	64	67
Birmingham	2,095	2,095	2,035	84	83	80
Coventry	535	515	590	79	76	86
Dudley	510	545	615	76	82	93
Herefordshire	155	165	160	42	45	46
Sandwell	480	475	505	71	70	73
Shropshire	195	200	220	32	33	37
Solihull	340	405	415	74	88	92
Staffordshire	660	700	740	38	41	44
Stoke-on-Trent	415	395	405	81	76	78
Telford and Wrekin	235	250	270	61	66	71
Walsall	445	465	495	73	77	82
Warwickshire	485	540	575	43	48	52
Wolverhampton	350	370	400	66	69	76
Worcestershire	480	530	585	41	45	50
East of England	5,630	5,740	6,180	46	47	50
Bedfordshire[5]	260	275	n/a	29	30	n/a
Bedford borough[5]	n/a	n/a	165	n/a	n/a	46
Central Bedfordshire[5]	n/a	n/a	165	n/a	n/a	29
Cambridgeshire	410	450	480	33	36	38
Essex	1,270	1,330	1,440	43	45	48
Hertfordshire	915	980	1,140	38	40	46
Luton	385	345	340	82	72	70
Norfolk	830	840	885	51	52	54
Peterborough	350	315	300	89	80	75
Southend-on-Sea	280	275	265	80	79	76
Suffolk	720	710	775	48	47	52
Thurrock	205	220	230	57	60	62
London	10,700	10,690	10,970	66	65	66
Inner London	4,920	4,770	4,920	83	80	81
Camden	275	270	265	72	69	68
City of London	10	15	15	133	132	159
Hackney	360	345	305	71	68	59
Hammersmith and Fulham	320	290	255	105	94	82

Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1, 2]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Number[3]			*Rates*[4]		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Haringey	425	490	590	88	101	121
Islington	330	305	315	99	92	94
Kensington and Chelsea	180	165	155	60	55	52
Lambeth	570	545	565	106	101	105
Lewisham	465	465	525	82	81	90
Newham	595	560	560	91	85	85
Southwark	570	535	555	104	97	101
Tower Hamlets	340	350	350	69	71	70
Wandsworth	240	230	205	50	47	41
Westminster	240	215	245	70	63	71
Outer London	5,770	5,920	6,060	56	56	57
Barking and Dagenham	340	385	380	75	83	78
Barnet	325	325	310	43	43	40
Bexley	210	215	220	41	42	43
Brent	365	360	370	66	64	65
Bromley	260	250	285	39	37	42
Croydon	1,045	1,070	1,010	132	134	126
Ealing	395	395	400	61	60	60
Enfield	255	260	280	38	37	40
Greenwich	515	530	590	99	101	111
Harrow	140	150	160	29	30	32
Havering	190	200	200	38	39	39
Hillingdon	475	450	425	82	76	71
Hounslow	335	340	355	68	69	71
Kingston upon Thames	90	110	130	28	33	38
Merton	105	115	140	26	28	33
Redbridge	180	215	225	29	34	35
Richmond upon Thames	95	90	95	24	22	24
Sutton	125	125	150	29	29	34
Waltham Forest	325	340	340	62	64	63
South East	7,370	7,660	8,130	41	42	45
Bracknell Forest	75	80	90	28	31	33
Brighton and Hove	370	395	465	81	86	99
Buckinghamshire	290	330	345	25	29	30
East Sussex	445	480	520	43	46	50
Hampshire	1,020	1,085	1,105	37	39	40
Isle of Wight	200	195	180	73	72	68
Kent	1,355	1,415	1,455	44	46	47
Medway Towns	330	310	350	56	53	60
Milton Keynes	210	225	260	38	40	45
Oxfordshire	405	415	450	30	30	33
Portsmouth	260	285	295	68	74	77
Reading	215	195	205	74	66	67
Slough	120	135	175	42	45	57
Southampton	270	290	375	63	67	86
Surrey	795	820	770	33	34	32
West Berkshire	115	95	125	32	27	34
West Sussex	755	745	785	46	45	48
Windsor and Maidenhead	75	90	105	22	27	32
Wokingham	70	65	80	19	19	22
South West	4,520	4,710	5,000	43	45	47
Bath and North East Somerset	130	120	140	38	35	40
Bournemouth	160	180	205	56	62	69
Bristol, City of	665	650	650	84	82	81
Cornwall	415	460	450	40	44	43
Devon	555	540	620	38	37	43
Dorset	280	265	275	35	33	34
Gloucestershire	390	465	490	32	38	40
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0

Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1, 2]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Number[3]			*Rates[4]*		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
North Somerset	175	195	230	41	46	53
Plymouth	370	380	435	74	76	88
Poole	105	115	120	37	41	42
Somerset	375	395	430	33	36	39
South Gloucestershire	170	180	185	31	32	33
Swindon	220	240	245	52	55	56
Torbay	175	180	180	67	70	70
Wiltshire	335	340	350	33	33	34

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and, corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[3] England totals have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

[4] The rates per 10,000 children under 18 years have been derived using the mid-year population estimates for 2009 provided by the Office for National Statistics.

[5] In 2009, Cheshire local authority split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford and Central Bedfordshire.

Source:

SSDA 903

Children in Care: Ethnic Groups

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in care are from an ethnic minority background. [48500]

Tim Loughton: 26% of children looked after at 31 March 2010 are from an ethnic minority background. This information can also be obtained from table A1 in the Statistical First Release, titled "Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010". This can be found at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Table A1 is located within the Excel link titled "England Summary tables". An extract of this table is as follows:

Children looked after at 31 March by ethnicity[1, 2], year ending 31 March 2010. Coverage: England

	Number	*Percentage*
All children looked after at 31 March	64,400	100
Ethnic origin	64,400	100
White	49,000	76
White British	47,100	73
White Irish	390	1
Traveller of Irish heritage	30	[3]—
Gypsy/Roma	50	[3]—
Any other White background	1,500	2
Mixed	5,500	8
White and Black Caribbean	2,000	3
White and Black African	520	1
White and Asian	840	1
Any other mixed background	2,100	3
Asian or Asian British	3,200	5
Indian	320	[3]—
Pakistani	740	1
Bangladeshi	410	1
Any other Asian background	1,700	3
Black or Black British	4,500	7
Caribbean	1,600	3
African	2,100	3
Any other Black background	840	1
Other ethnic groups	1,800	3
Chinese	130	[3]—
Any other ethnic group	1,600	3
Other	420	1
Refused	30	[3]—
Information not yet available	390	1

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Negligible. Percentage below 0.5%.

Source:

SSDA 903.

Children in Care: Social Workers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of rate of turnover of staff social workers in children's homes on the level of care for looked after children. [48472]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not collect information on the recruitment and retention rates of social workers working with looked after children; this information is held by the organisations that employ them.

However, we know that for looked after children the stability of a child's relationship with their social worker can be vitally important. This is made clear by Roger Morgan, the Children's Rights Director, in his reports "Children's Views on Social Workers" (2006) and "Life in Children's Homes" (2009). These reports can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Children-s-rights

Children: Disability

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much money his Department plans to spend on mobility for disabled children in residential schools in each local authority area in the financial year *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15. [47635]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold the information requested. It is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally.

Children: Social Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for his Department's funding of disabled children's services *(a)* after March 2011 and *(b)* in Sunderland from 2010 to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [26375]

Sarah Teather: Funding for short breaks for carers of disabled children will be provided through the new Early Intervention Grant (EIG) from April 2011. Local authorities received details of their EIG allocation in December 2010. We have made over £800 million available to local authorities over the spending review period for the provision of short breaks for disabled children and their families, which represents a small increase in available funding compared to the 2010-11 financial year. As this funding is not ring-fenced it will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children. However, local authorities must consider how they will meet the new legal duty to provide a range of short breaks to carers of disabled children.

We have recently introduced "The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011", these regulations prescribe how local authorities must perform their duty in primary legislation to provide short break services in order to assist carers of disabled children.

Children's Plan

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the status is of the 2007 Children's Plan. [48242]

Tim Loughton: The Children's Plan was published by the previous Government and set out the priorities for the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

In November 2010 the Department for Education published a business plan which sets out the Department's structural reform priorities. Since then we have published a Schools White Paper—"The importance of Teaching" and a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper—"Support and Aspiration". All these publications are available on our website.

Departmental Advertising

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on advertising in the latest period for which figures are available. [32321]

Tim Loughton: Advertising spend by the Department and its non-departmental public bodies as part of marketing activity from the beginning of the financial year 2010/11 until today is outlined as follows:

DfE

Parent Know How: £122,846

TDA

Teacher Recruitment: £1,456,610.

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43473]

Tim Loughton: The Department is currently nearing the end of its national estates strategy review. The current spending controls on Government property, including the moratorium on lease breaks and expiries, mean it is already clear that the Department is very unlikely to be acquiring or relocating to any new buildings or locations in the UK. The Department has three of its four main sites located outside of London and is committed to achieving efficiency savings through further rationalisation and reduction of property in London and elsewhere across the education family.

Should this position change, we will make an announcement of our plans. Any consideration will be based on the Department having a workforce capability to deliver the coalition Government's challenging education agenda as well as live within the Department's recent spending review settlement.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension entitlements for special advisers in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [46584]

Tim Loughton: Details of special advisers pay bands were released by the Cabinet Office and are available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases.

The website lists the names of the special advisers in post in each Department and details each special adviser's pay band, actual salary where it is £58,200 or higher, together with details of special advisers' pay ranges for 2010-11. It also shows the total pay bill cost of special advisers for the period up to 31 March 2011. The estimated pay bill includes pension costs and details of pension arrangements are set out in the "Model contract for Special Advisers", available at the same link.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure his Departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible. [43542]

Tim Loughton: The coalition Government are committed to improving transparency and the coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for the most senior civil servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.

As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the senior civil service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.

Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (Pay Bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of that team were published. Organograms will next be updated by the end of May to show structures as at 31 March 2011.

Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how Government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) non-departmental public body and (B) non-ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43959]

Tim Loughton: The costs of the procurement function in the Department and the non-departmental public bodies are presented in the following table. In all cases there is no separate outsourcing function. The cost of administering outsourcing arrangements is included within the procurement functions of those organisations.

2009-10

Organisation	*£*
Department for Education	3,543,100
BECTA	279,909
CAFCASS	113,563
Children's Workforce Development Council	252,607
National College for School Leadership	639,504
Ofsted	635,832
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	784,002
Training and Development Agency for Schools	345,955

Costs of the procurement and outsourcing functions for Partnership for Schools, Schools Food Trust, General Teaching Council for England and the Office for the Children's Commissioner are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Disabilities: Public Expenditure

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has carried out on the effects of measures announced as a result of the June 2010 Budget and the Comprehensive Spending Review on people with disabilities. [34325]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* The Department for Education seeks to promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities, in particular children and young people, in all its policy development. The Department has taken this into account, in the development of all policies resulting from announcements made at the June 2010 Budget and the 2010 Spending Review.

A number of specific measures have been announced that show the Department's commitment to people with disabilities: The recently published SEN Green Paper set out proposals for the biggest programme of reform in the education and health support for children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities in 30 years. The Department has also made over £800 million available to local authorities over the spending review period for the provision of short breaks for disabled children and their families which represents an increase in available funding compared with the 2010-11 financial year.

Education: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what proportion of students measured as having obtained five or more GCSEs at grade C or above or equivalent of that achievement included a non-GCSE qualification in the last academic year for which figures are available. [46927]

Mr Gibb: Overall, 75.4 per cent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or above which could include equivalent qualifications in the year 2010.

56.3 per cent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs including short courses but not including equivalents at grade C or above in the year 2010.

19.1 percent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or above using equivalent qualifications in the year 2010.

Source:

Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2009/10 (Revised)"- Table 5

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml

Education: Finance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to provide sustainable funding for Aids to Communication in Education centres through continuation of the Alternative and Augmentative Communication grants programme. [42720]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 1 March 2011]:* We are looking to make provision for grants to support augmentative and alternative communication in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Voluntary and Community Sector Prospectus. The Prospectus was announced in our Green Paper "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability: A consultation", published on 9 March 2011.

Educational Psychology

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many educational psychologists are employed by each local education authority. [48580]

Sarah Teather: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists in service in local authorities in England in January 2009. Figures for 2010 will not be available until April 2011 when the results of the November 2010 school workforce census are published.

Full-time equivalent educational psychologists in service in local authority[1] maintained schools by local authority and Government office region, January 2009, England

	Number (FTE)
England	2,160
Gateshead	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	10
North Tyneside	10
South Tyneside	10
Sunderland	10
Hartlepool	10
Middlesbrough	10
Redcar and Cleveland	10
Stockton on Tees	10
Durham (post 1 April 1997)	20
Darlington	10
Northumberland	20
North East	130
Cumbria	10
Cheshire (post 1 April 1998)	20
Halton	10
Warrington	10
Bolton	10
Bury	10
Manchester	10
Oldham	10
Rochdale	10
Salford	10
Stockport	10
Tameside	10
Trafford	10
Wigan	30
Lancashire (post 1 April 1998)	50
Blackburn with Darwen	10
Blackpool	10
Knowsley	10
Liverpool	10
St Helens	10
Sefton	20
Wirral	10
North West	300
Kingston-upon-Hull, City of	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	10
North East Lincolnshire	10
North Lincolnshire	10
North Yorkshire (post 1 April 1996)	20
York	10
Barnsley	10
Doncaster	10
Rotherham	10
Sheffield	20
Bradford	20
Calderdale	10
Kirklees	20
Leeds	20
Wakefield	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	200
Derbyshire (post 1 April 1997)	30
Derby	10
Leicestershire (post 1 April 1997)	20
Leicester	10
Rutland	[2]—
Lincolnshire	30
Northamptonshire	30
Nottinghamshire (post 1 April 1998)	30
Nottingham	10
East Midlands	170
Herefordshire	[2]—
Worcestershire	20
Shropshire (post 1 April 1998)	[2]—
Telford and Wrekin	10
Staffordshire (post 1 April 1997)	30
Stoke-on-Trent	10
Warwickshire	20
Birmingham	40
Coventry	10
Dudley	10
Sandwell	20
Solihull	10
Walsall	10
Wolverhampton	20
West Midlands	220
Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998)	[2]—
Peterborough	10
Norfolk	30
Suffolk	20
Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997)	10
Luton	10
Essex (post 1 April 1998)	20
Southend-on-Sea	10
Thurrock	10
Hertfordshire	40
East of England	160
Camden	10
City of London	[2]—
Hackney	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	10
Haringey	10
Islington	10
Kensington and Chelsea	10
Lambeth	20
Lewisham	10
Newham	10
Southwark	20
Tower Hamlets	20
Wandsworth	10
Westminster	10
Inner London	160
Barking and Dagenham	10

Full-time equivalent educational psychologists in service in local authority[1] maintained schools by local authority and Government office region, January 2009, England

	Number (FTE)
Barnet	10
Bexley	10
Brent	20
Bromley	10
Croydon	10
Ealing	20
Enfield	20
Greenwich	20
Harrow	10
Havering	10
Hillingdon	10
Hounslow	10
Kingston upon Thames	10
Merton	10
Redbridge	10
Richmond upon Thames	[2]—
Sutton	10
Waltham Forest	10
Outer London	220
London	380
Bracknell Forest	[2]—
Windsor and Maidenhead	10
West Berkshire	10
Reading	10
Slough	20
Wokingham	10
Buckinghamshire (post 1 April 1997)	20
Milton Keynes	10
East Sussex (post 1 April 1997)	20
Brighton and Hove	50
Hampshire (post 1 April 1997)	60
Portsmouth	10
Southampton	10
Isle of Wight	10
Kent (post 1 April 1998)	50
Medway	10
Oxfordshire	20
Surrey	30
West Sussex	30
South East	370
Isles of Scilly	[2]—
Bath and North East Somerset	[2]—
City of Bristol	40
North Somerset	10
South Gloucestershire	10
Cornwall	30
Devon (post 1 April 1998)	30
Plymouth	[2]—
Torbay	[2]—
Dorset (post 1 April 1997)	20
Poole	10
Bournemouth	10
Gloucestershire	20
Somerset	30
Wiltshire (post 1 April 1997)	20
Swindon	10
South West	230

[1] Maintained sector only. Teachers in academies (including those that were previously maintained schools) are not included.

[2] Nil or neglible.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, Form 618g.

Free Schools

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the powers of local authority scrutiny committees to overturn decisions on the location of free schools. [48369]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, has had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the role of local authority scrutiny committees in relation to the location of free schools.

GCSE

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care (i) gained five GCSEs and (ii) subsequently went to university in each year of the last 10 years. [48484]

Tim Loughton: Information on the percentage of looked after children who achieve five GCSEs is available in table 3.1 of the Departments Statistical First Release, Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010. This shows the percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March who achieved five or more GCSEs (including equivalents) for all years since 2006. Information on years prior to 2006 is not available from this data source. The publication can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Information taken from table 3.1 is as follows; this follows the current practice of comparing the GCSE performance of children looked after continuously for 12 months with that of all children. Information on the GCSE performance of children not in care can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Key stage 4 performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March[1] compared to key stage 4 performance of all children. Years: 2006-2010; Coverage: England

		Percentage of children who achieved (GCSE or equivalent):					
	Number eligible to sit GCSEs[2]	*Entered for at least one GCSE or equivalent*	*Entered for at least five GCSEs or equivalent*	*Any pass*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C*	*5+GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics*
Children looked after continuously for 12 months[3]							

Table 1: Key stage 4 performance of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March[1] compared to key stage 4 performance of all children. Years: 2006-2010; Coverage: England

		Percentage of children who achieved (GCSE or equivalent):					
	Number eligible to sit GCSEs[2]	*Entered for at least one GCSE or equivalent*	*Entered for at least five GCSEs or equivalent*	*Any pass*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-G*	*5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C*	*5+GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics*
2006	4,900	62.5	49.0	61.8	40.7	11.8	5.9
2007	4,900	61.8	48.5	61.3	40.8	13.5	6.9
2008	5,000	66.3	53.0	66.3	46.1	16.6	6.6
2009	5,000	68.5	56.0	68.7	49.7	21.1	9.8
2010	5,100	77.6	58.9	78.0	50.6	26.1	11.6
All children[3]							
2006	648,800	92.3	97.5	97.3	90.1	59.0	45.6
2007	655,100	94.4	99.5	93.0	90.9	61.4	45.3
2008	653,000	93.8	99.1	98.6	91.6	65.3	47.6
2009	634,500	93.8	94.3	98.9	92.3	70.0	49.8
2010	639,700	98.8	94.3	99.0	92.7	75.3	53.4

[1] Children looked after continuously for at least 12 months as at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.

[2] Number of eligible children based on those aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.

[3] Figures for all children are taken from Statistical First Release, GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2009/10 (Revised). Figures on GCSE entries are taken from equivalent earlier publications.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
CLA-JPD matched data

Information on the GCSE attainment of children looked after continuously for 12 months for years prior to 2006 relates to all children looked after continuously at 30 September each year. Please note that because these data have been derived from a different data source and include a different cohort of children, the percentages given in the following table below are not directly comparable with those shown in table 1 above. Information on the percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 30 September who achieved five or more A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics or the percentage of these children entered for GCSEs is not available. The available information is shown in table 2:

Table 2: GCSE performance of children who have been looked after continuously for 12 months at 30 September each year 2002 to 2005. Coverage: England

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*Children 2005*
Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 30 September who obtained at least:				
1 GCSE at grade A* to G or a GNVQ	53.2	52.9	56.1	60.2
5 GCSEs (and GNVQ equivalent) at grade A* to G	36.3	35.8	39.4	40.7
5 GCSEs (and GNVQ equivalent) at grade A* to C	7.5	8.7	9.4	10.8
Percentage of all children who obtained at least[1]:				
1 GCSE at grade A* to G or a GNVQ	94.6	94.8	95.9	96.4
5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to G	88.9	88.8	88.8	89.0
5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to C	51.6	52.9	53.7	56.3

[1] Comparison data for all children taken from GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/AS/VCE//Advanced GNVQ Examination Results 2004-05—England. Issued January 2006.

Source:
OC2

Information on the number of looked after children who go on to university is not available. However the Department does collect information on the number of former care leavers now aged 19 but who were looked after when aged 16, who are in higher education. This information is published in table G1 of the Department's Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010. This publication can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

An extract of this table showing information for all years since 2002 is given in table 3. Information for years prior to 2002 is not available.

Table 3: Children aged 19 years old at 31 March who were looked after in their 17th year, who are in higher education[1,2]. Years: 2002-10; Coverage: England

	Year ending 31 March[3]:								
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children aged 13 yean old who were looked after three years earlier when aged 16 years old	4,700	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,800	5,800	6,100	6,200
Percentage in higher education, i.e. studies beyond A level[4]	5	6	5	6	6	6	7	7	7
Full-time	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	6	6	7	7
Part-time	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—

[1] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Figures exclude children who were looked alter when aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Information on children undertaking part-time and full-time study was collected for the first time in 2007.

[5] Not available.

[6] Negligible. Percentage below 0.5%.

Source:

SSDA 903

Information on the percentage of children not in care attending university is not available. Information on the participation of all 19-year-olds in higher education is produced by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. Information on participation has been provided and is shown in table 4.

Please note that this information gives the initial participation rates for 19-year-old English domiciled first-time participants at UK higher education (HE) institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges. The figures relate to the number of students entering HE for the first time in that academic year, not the total number of 19-year-old students in HE in a given year. Please also note that a new method of calculation was introduced for 2006/07, figures from this year onwards are not comparable with figures for earlier years.

Table 4: Higher education initial participation rates for 19-year-old English domiciled first-time participants—UK higher education institutions, English, Welsh and Scottish further education colleges. Academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Initial entrants*	*Population*	*Initial participation rate (%)*
2002/03	60,420	609,000	9.9
2003/04	61,260	633,400	9.7
2004/05	62,170	663,800	9.4
2005/06	64,130	662,400	9.7
2006/07	58,350	675,900	8.6
New methodology			
2006/07	61,395	675,900	9.1
2007/08	69,835	693,000	10.1
2008/09	73,225	685,400	10.7

Note:

Entrant figures have been rounded to the nearest five, and population estimates rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Participation Rates in Higher Education Statistical First Release.

International Baccalaureate

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the *(a)* teaching and *(b)* funding of the post-16 International Baccalaureate diploma. [48185]

Mr Gibb: We want state schools and colleges to be able to choose from the best qualifications—hence schools are free to offer the accredited level 3 qualifications which they consider are right for their pupils, including the International Baccalaureate diploma.

Funding for the post-16 International Baccalaureate in 2011/12 is the same as it was in 2010/11. The 16-19 funding formula is currently being reviewed and we will ensure that we take into account issues relating to the delivery of the International Baccalaureate as part of that review.

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to paragraph 10 of the executive summary of the Schools White Paper, if he will assess the potential effects of introducing a Year 1 phonics screening test on his Department's aim to give teachers renewed freedom and authority; and if he will make a statement. [49304]

Mr Gibb: "The Importance of Teaching" describes how the Government will give teachers renewed freedom and authority to improve schools. It also makes clear the importance of setting clear expectations for what children must know and be able to do at each stage in their education.

It is of fundamental importance that all children learn how to read early in their education. Despite the efforts of teachers and parents, 15% of children did not reach the expected level in reading at the end of Key Stage 1 last year. It is vital that we identify those children at an early stage and ensure that they get the extra help they need.

Research evidence shows that systematic teaching of synthetic phonics is the best way of teaching reading. The Year 1 phonics screening check will confirm that children are able to decode using phonics by the end of Year 1 and identify those pupils who need additional support.

National Curriculum in England Review

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on departmental procurement, what responsibilities Professor Dylan Wiliam, Professor Andrew Pollard and Professor Mary James were allocated on the expert panel for the National Curriculum Review; what were the periods of their contracts; whether they were contracted on a full-time basis; and what criteria were used to appoint the members of this expert panel. [49202]

Mr Gibb: The terms of reference for the Expert Panel have been published on the Department for Education's website. They can be viewed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcurriculum

Professor Wiliam and Professor James have respectively entered into contracts with the Department to provide up to 50 days support to the review over a period of 10 months from December 2010, while Professor Pollard has been contracted to provide up to 75 days of support the review over that same period. Professors James, Pollard and Wiliam were selected to join the Expert Panel on the basis of their outstanding experience, expertise and standing in the education community.

Outdoor Learning

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 290WH, on outdoor learning, what progress has been made in examination of the possibility of an insurance scheme for schools. [40234]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education is investigating insurance related expenditure made by schools to determine whether a national approach for one or more types of insurance would save money for schools.

The focus so far has been on property insurance because of its significant value. Information published by the Department for Communities and Local Government show that in the financial year 2008/09, maintained schools in England spent a total of £236.7 million on insurance with £107.8 million on property insurance (45.5%), and £3.7 million on transport insurance (1.5%).

Partnership For Schools

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the salary was of the chief executive of Partnership for Schools in the last year for which figures are available; [48370]

(2) when he last met the chief executive of Partnership for Schools. [48372]

Mr Gibb: The 2009-10 salary of the chief executive of Partnerships for Schools was £216,199.

The chief executive of Partnerships for Schools (PfS) meets regularly with Ministers from the Department for Education, including the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove). The last meeting between the chief executive of PfS and the Secretary of State took place on 14 March 2011.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48425]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has a nil spend for the procurement of indoor and outdoor plants and trees since May 2010.

Pupil Exclusions: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were permanently excluded from *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [49082]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the table:

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of permanent exclusions[3] 2004/05 to 2008/09 in Dartford parliamentary constituency

	Maintained primary schools[1]	*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]*
2004/05	[4]—	36
2005/06	0	24
2006/07	[4]—	40
2007/08	[4]—	18
2008/09	0	10

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[4] Fewer than 5 pupils.

Source:
School Census

Schools

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the proportion of *(a)* seven, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 14 year olds who walk to school. [48237]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: Number and percentage of pupils who walked to school[4] as at January 2010, England

Pupils aged[5]	*Number*	*Percentage*
7	299,460	56.2
10	303,440	53.9
14	232,830	40.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes solely registered pupils only. Excludes boarders.

[5] Age as at 31 August 2009.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

The latest available information on pupils' mode of travel can be found in the 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010' Statistical First Release in Table D.

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

School Sports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what schools he has visited for the purpose of formulating his policy on the Schools Sport Partnership programme; and if he will make a statement. [27202]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and his ministerial colleagues have visited many schools and other organisations since May 2010 in order to gain a better understanding of education issues and to explore options relating to various policy areas. Some of these have been within their own constituencies, and some outside of them. Ministers have been able to use the visits to inform their thinking in relation to developing policy in this area.

Schools: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the weighted average Key Stage 2 to 4 contextual value-added results were in maintained schools *(a)* with and *(b)* without a sixth form (i) nationally and (ii) in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [43671]

Mr Gibb: Contextual value added was introduced into the Performance Tables in 2006 to replace the value added model. The following table shows the average contextual value added (CVA) score for the years 2006 to 2010 for maintained mainstream schools. The number of schools used in the calculation is given in brackets.

Providing these figures at local authority area can be done only at disproportionate cost.

	Secondary schools without sixth forms			*Secondary schools with sixth forms*		
	CVA score	*Lower confidence limit*	*Upper confidence limit*	*CVA score*	*Lower confidence limit*	*Upper confidence limit*
2006	1000.0 (1313)	999.7	1000.2	1000.4 (1793)	1000.2	1000.6
2007	1001.5 (1257)	1001.3	1001.8	1000.4 (1788)	1000.2	1000.6
2008	1001.7 (1265)	1001.4	1001.9	1000.6 (1828)	1000.4	1000.8
2009	1001.4 (1197)	1001.1	1001.7	1001.0 (1887)	1000.8	1001.2
2010	999.5 (1119)	999.2	999.8	1001.0 (1939)	1000.7	1001.2

Notes:

1. For Contextual Value Added scores it is standard practice to give the upper and lower confidence limits.
2. The coefficients used in the CVA calculation are only calculated once in the CVA process on unamended (provisional) data. The school checking exercise generally sees some increase/improvement in results and therefore this can increase the national average to just above 1000 on the revised and final data.
3. Figures for 2010 are revised, all other figures are final.

Source:

The Secondary School Performance Tables

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of his Department's funding for the Schools Sport Partnership in 2010-11 will be *(a)* retained by and *(b)* distributed via the School Grant Distribution Formula in 2011-12. [26448]

Tim Loughton: None of the funding for school sport partnerships is going into the school grant distribution formula in 2011-12. This is because we are continuing to fund school sport through other, more direct, means.

At the end of February this year, funding of £47 million was paid to school sport partnerships from the existing sport budget for the financial year 2010-11. This covers their work up until the end of the summer term 2011. This grant is being used to fund the provision of physical education and sport, to embed existing good practice throughout the system and to introduce sporting competitions for more pupils as part of the coalition Government's school games. This is in addition to £71 million already paid to partnerships in October 2010, which included full swimming and coaching grants for the current school year.

Ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships will not continue beyond the summer term 2011. Instead, the Department will make available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. The funding will cover the school year 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra and inter-school competition. We are currently exploring the best way to get this money out to schools.

In addition, at the Sports Colleges conference in Telford in February, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) announced outline plans for a network of school games organisers from September 2011. These organisers will be funded by the Department of Health and Sport England for three days a week to help schools sign up for the nationwide school games. Further details on the funding for these organiser posts and their precise roles will be announced shortly. If they wish, head teachers could choose to pay for additional days for these school games organisers, if they deem them to be of value.

Taken together, I believe this package of funding will enable schools to maximise the opportunities for competitive sport that they can provide for their pupils.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Health on his proposed changes to school sports funding; and if he will make a statement. [27182]

Tim Loughton: Ministers from all Departments with an interest in our proposals for school sport, including the Secretary of State for Health, have been involved in discussions about them. In addition, officials at the Departments for Education and for Culture, Media and Sport have weekly meetings with their opposite numbers at the Department of Health about the School Games.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of *(a)* the change in the number of children able to participate in sports activities as a result of his proposed changes to school sports funding and *(b)* the number of children he expects to take part in his proposed School Olympics. [27184]

Tim Loughton: The proposed changes to schools sports funding will give schools greater freedom to decide what sports to offer and to provide pupils more opportunities to get involved in a variety of sports; this will benefit more students.

As set out in the Government's recent White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", physical education and sport in schools are important issues for the coalition Government. We want all young people to be able to benefit from participating in the nationwide School Games. The Department for Education is working closely with the Departments for Health and for Culture, Media and Sport and with Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust to ensure that the new School Games will created opportunities for competitive sport for all pupils, whatever their abilities.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effect on participation in non-competitive sport of his proposed changes to school sports funding; and if he will make a statement. [27185]

Tim Loughton: All schools will benefit from the planned changes in the Government's approach to school sport. In removing all the unnecessary targets and reporting arrangements placed on schools by the old system, we are freeing them up to provide more opportunities that are most appropriate for their own pupils.

The removal of centrally driven, top down programmes will also mean that schools will have more flexibility to use their front-line funding in areas which they identify as their own priorities. This includes non-competitive sport.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has announced that physical education will remain a compulsory subject at all four key stages following the current review of the national curriculum. This will ensure that every child has a statutory entitlement to a broad and balanced programme of physical education throughout their compulsory schooling.

In addition, over the next two academic years, we are making available £65 million to improve provision for school sport. This funding will cover the release from timetable of a PE teacher in every secondary school for one day a week to work with local primary schools to improve provision for PE and school sport.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of schools not involved in competitive sports with other schools. [27554]

Tim Loughton: The PE and Sport Survey 2009/10 collected data from schools relating to the provision and take up of PE and sport in schools. The survey showed that 270 schools with Key Stage 2 pupils and 70 schools with secondary age pupils reported that none of their pupils were involved in any competitive sporting activities with other schools over the course of the year.

The survey also showed that 1,950 schools with Key Stage 2 pupils and 710 schools with secondary age pupils reported that none of their pupils were involved in regular competitive sporting activities with other schools over the course of the year.

Regular inter-school competitive sport was defined as three times or more during the year for pupils in Key Stage 2, and nine times or more for pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of attainment in examinations by pupils at specialist sports colleges; and if he will make a statement. [27746]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has made no recent formal assessment of the trends in levels of attainment in examinations by pupils at specialist sport colleges. However, data published by the Youth Sport Trust in February this year showed that 47% of pupils at specialist sports colleges achieved five or more GCSE passes at grades A*-C (including English and maths), compared to the national average of 50%. The Youth Sport Trust data also showed the trends in GCSE performance in this area, as follows:

Percentage

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
National average	46	47	48	50
Specialist Sports Colleges	40	42	45	47

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of year one to 11 pupils took part in inter-school sport in the academic years *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2009-10. [28122]

Tim Loughton: Information about the proportion of year one to 11 pupils taking part in inter-school sport is only available from the 2006/07 academic year, and therefore we have provided figures for this academic year instead of 2003/04.

In 2006/07, 35% of pupils in years one to 11 in maintained schools and Academies took part in inter-school sport. In 2009/10 the proportion was 49%.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Redditch constituency have received school sports grants; and how much was paid to each. [32244]

Tim Loughton: The table sets out the amount of grant paid to each institution in the Redditch constituency in 2009/10. Sports grant is paid to school sport partnerships via the 'hub' school. The grant is allocated on the basis of the number of schools in the partnership, based on the standard funding formula:

each secondary school has a school sport co-ordinator at £17,970 (£19,767 in London); and

each primary school has 12 primary link teacher days at a total of £2,015 (£2,156 in London).

Type of institution	*School name*	*Amount of funding (£)*
Further Education Sports College	North East Worcestershire College	13,050
Primary school	Abbeywood First School	2,015
Primary school	Astwood Bank First School	2,015
Primary school	Batchley First and Nursery School	2,015
Primary school	Feckenham CofE First School	2,015
Primary school	Harry Taylor First School	2,015
Primary school	Holyoakes Field First School	2,015
Primary school	Matchborough First School	2,015
Primary school	Moons Moat First School	2,015
Primary school	Oak Hill First School	2,015
Primary school	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic First School	2,015
Primary school	Roman Way First School	2,015
Primary school	St Georges CofE First School	2,015
Primary school	St Lukes CofE First School	2,015
Primary school	St Stephens CofE First School	2,015
Primary school	St Thomas More Catholic First School	2,015
Primary school	Tenacres First School	2,015
Primary school	Vaynor First School	2,015
Primary school	Webheath First School	2,015
Primary school	Woodrow First School	2,015
Primary special	Kingfisher School	2,015
Pupil Referral Unit	Holyoakes Field PRU	2,015
Pupil Referral Unit	Ipsley PRU	2,015
Secondary school	Birchensale Middle School	17,970
Secondary school	Church Hill Middle School	17,970
Secondary school	Ipsley CofE Middle School	17,970
Secondary school	Kingsley College	17,970
Secondary school	Ridgeway Middle School	17,970
Secondary school	St Augustines Catholic High School	17,970
Secondary school	St Bedes Catholic Middle School	17,970
Secondary school	Trinity High School and Sixth Form Centre	17,970
Secondary school	Walkwood CofE Middle School	17,970
Secondary school	Woodfield Middle School	17,970
Secondary special	Pitcheroak School	17,970
Sports College	Arrow Vale Sports College (Hub site)	71,280
Total		326,330

In February 2011, the Department made payments of £47 million to cover the work of school sport partnerships up to the end of the summer term 2011. This was on top of grant of £71 million paid to them in October last year. In addition, from September 2011, the Department is making available funding of £65 million to pay for the release of a PE teacher from each secondary school, including those in Redditch, for one day a week to work with local primary schools to improve their provision and create more opportunities for competitive sport.

Special Educational Needs: Epilepsy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to improve *(a)* assessments and *(b)* access to support for children with epilepsy and related conditions in mainstream schools. [49124]

Sarah Teather: There is no legal duty on school staff to provide medical support, to administer medication or to supervise a pupil taking it and we have no plans to change this. But it is vitally important that children and young people with long-term medical conditions, such as epilepsy, do not miss out on school life or are treated less favourably because of it. Schools are encouraged to do all they can to support the medical needs of pupils.

To encourage schools to provide this support, this Department, together with the Department for Health, is currently reviewing the joint guidance to schools on "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings". Our aim in reviewing the guidance is to clarify expectations. We will also reinforce the importance of proper training for members of staff and of drawing up individual care plans for all pupils with long-term medical needs. Such plans will help identify the level of support that is needed for each pupil and to clarify for staff, parents and pupils the help that will be provided. This review will also be used as an opportunity to signpost good practice and it is hoped that expert organisations, such as the Joint Epilepsy Council, can help champion this work.

School Sports: Females

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will commission research on the effect on the participation in competitive sport by young women whose access to (*a*) dance and (*b*) aerobics classes will be affected by proposed changes to school sports funding as a result of the decision to scrap the Sport for All funding. [27183]

Tim Loughton: We have no plans to commission research specifically on the effect on the take up of *(a)* dance and *(b)* aerobics classes of our proposals for competitive sport as a result of changes to funding for school sport.

Teachers: Languages

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase the number of language teachers in primary and secondary schools. [47882]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools on 31 January 2011 with the details of the initial teacher training place allocations and training bursary amounts for Academic Year 2011/12. Despite falling secondary pupil rolls and reductions in the secondary allocation overall, the secondary language place allocation has been protected with 100 more places than the previous year to take account of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. Future year allocations will continue to take account of the English Baccalaureate and other policy developments. We are also maintaining the training bursary level for modern foreign languages at £6,000 in 2011/12 to help with recruitment.

The Schools White Paper 2010, The Importance of Teaching, sets out the Government's commitment to attract more of the best graduates in shortage subjects, including modern foreign languages, into teaching. A strategy document will be issued for discussion later this year setting out our plans for funding initial teacher training from Academic Year 2012/13.

We also continue to consider the funding and support structures that might best be used to improve language teaching in schools, including the primary school workforce.

Teachers: Pay

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has had on pay and conditions for staff in academies since his appointment; and who was present at each such meeting. [44753]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) and other members of the Ministerial team have held separate meetings which covered, among other things, the topic of staff pay and conditions in academies with the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers—Chris Keates, General Secretary and Patrick Roach, Deputy General Secretary; the National Union of Teachers—Christine Blower, General Secretary; the Association of Teachers and Lecturers—Mary Bousted, General Secretary; and the Association of School and College Leaders—Brian Lightman, General Secretary and John Fairhurst, President.

Teachers: Pensions

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure that proposed reforms to the Teachers' Pension Scheme do not discourage potential new teachers from entering the profession. [43391]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to ensuring that any reform of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) will continue to give teachers access to high quality pension provision. The Government have accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations for reform as a basis for consultation and will seek to engage with unions and employers to ensure the TPS remains an important part of the total remuneration that teachers receive, supporting the Government's wider policies for recruitment in the teaching profession.

Teachers: Training

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects of higher tuition fee rates on the propensity of individuals to take up teaching careers. [49130]

Mr Gibb: There are ongoing discussions between this Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills about the changes to Higher Education and student funding and the implications for the initial training of teachers. As announced in the Schools White Paper 2010 - The Importance of Teaching, we will publish for discussion later this year our detailed proposals for the funding of initial teacher training from Academic Year 2012/13.

Vocational Education: GCSE

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average points score will be from those vocational subjects to be included in the school performance measure of five GCSE grades at A* to C including English and mathematics. [32587]

Mr Gibb: In 2010, the average points scored per pupil across all qualifications equivalent to a GCSE at grades A*-C, was 361.6. This has been shown by different qualification types in the following table. The total points scored in each qualification type divided by the total number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 gives the average points per pupil in each category and shows that, on average, a key stage 4 pupil scored 103.9 points from non-GCSE qualifications equivalent to A*-C.

Average point score achieved by pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in level 2[2] qualifications that make some contribution to the achievement of 5+ A-C including English and mathematics, by qualification type, 2010*

Qualification type	*Average level 2 points scored by each end key stage 4 pupil*
GCSEs at grade A*-C (full, short and double awards) and AS levels	250.4
GCSEs at grade A*-C in applied subjects	7.3
Non-GCSE qualifications scoring points towards the achievement of the 5+ A*-C threshold	103.9
Average point score (all qualifications equivalent to A*-C)	361.6

[1] All pupils at the end of key stage 4 are included in these measures whether they achieved any level 2 qualifications or not. A pupil not achieving any result at grade A*-C or equivalent would score zero points in each category.

[2] Level 2 qualifications are those which are deemed to be equivalent to GCSEs at grades A*-C—the point score and equivalence to a GCSE is determined by the size of the qualification, usually measured by guided learning hours.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on encouraging its staff to volunteer in each of the last five years; and how much it plans to spend in each of the next five years. [48622]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education is committed to supporting staff to volunteer. In order to support this, in previous years the Department has paid for the support of a voluntary sector brokerage organisation to help staff find and access volunteering opportunities. The total spent for this support was £4,250 in 2006/07; £10,634 in 2007/08; £13,000 in 2008/09; in 2009/10 £5,000; and £8,000 in the current financial year.

The Department is committed to encouraging more volunteering by its staff over the next five years, and is currently reviewing its approach to ensure that all staff are able to access volunteering opportunities.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to Question 26375, on his Department's funding for disabled children's services, tabled on 22 November for ordinary written answer. [29616]

Sarah Teather: A response has been issued to the hon. Member today.

Young People Substance Misuse Scheme: Finance

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department allocated to the Young People Substance Misuse scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [40603]

Sarah Teather: £7.0 million was allocated by DfE (then DCSF) in each of *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. This funding was allocated to each top-tier local authority in England through the Area Based Grant. £4.0 million of this funding for each year was transferred from the Department of Health but distributed as part of the DfE allocation.

Youth Services: Standards

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will commission an evaluation of youth services in England. [40676]

Tim Loughton: The Department recently hosted a Positive for Youth Summit in association with the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS). A key theme of the Summit was the evidence for investing in youth services and the impact on outcomes for young people. The Department is now taking forward the lessons from the Summit and developing a Youth policy paper in partnership with young people and youth organisations. This will be published later in the year.

The Department has previously commissioned a number of evaluations looking at different youth service programmes. The most recent published study assessed the impact of the Youth Sector Development Fund on the effectiveness of Community Society Organisation (CSO) business models and the impact of CSO services on outcomes for young people. A copy of the report is available on the DfE website:

http://education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-RR169

The Department has also worked closely with a range of national stakeholders to develop a better evidence base for youth services. A recent published study by the Big Lottery Fund evaluated the set up of the *myplace* facilities and their plans for generating and sustaining revenue income. A copy of the report is available at:

http://education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/MYPLACE-INT-REP

The Department is committed to improving the evidence base to support the delivery of youth services. It recently commissioned an evaluation of the National Citizen Service and this will generate wider lessons for youth services. The Department will also continue to work closely with stakeholders and local youth service providers to evaluate future programmes.

Youth Sport Trust

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions Ministers in his Department had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the work of the Youth Sport Trust. [27406]

Tim Loughton: Ministers have had a number of discussions with their ministerial colleagues at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, about the Government's new approach to PE and sport including the role of the Youth Sport Trust.

Our key proposals were set out in the Secretary of State's letter of 20 October 2010 to Baroness Campbell. These include: the ending of ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships, the Government's commitment to encourage more competitive school sport through the creation of Olympic and Paralympic-style competitions, and to stop commissioning further work from the Youth Sport Trust beyond March 2011.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Coal Corporation

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 109W, on departmental procurement, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the cost to the public purse of and *(b)* services to be provided under the contract for legal support, advice and claims handling associated with the former British Coal Corporation; and what services he expects to be provided. [49504]

Gregory Barker: The Department's modelling assumptions for the procurement were that the cost of the contracted services would be a maximum of c£5 million per annum. This reflected certain assumptions on the scale of work to be undertaken in the light of two ongoing group litigation actions; other generic legal advice on British Coal health related liabilities and volumes of personal injury claims (both litigated and non-litigated) received against the Department standing in the place of British Coal. The contract is for a five-year period and consequently has a total estimated maximum value of c£25 million subject to the scale of work required.

The services to be provided are as follows:

(i) legal advice and support for managing the Department's liabilities resulting from the former British Coal and its subsidiaries including:

(a) leading the Department's defence in relation to the conduct of major litigation currently focused on a Group action for osteoarthritis of the knee amongst miners and a Group action for a number of cancer and respiratory claims from workers at a Phurnacite production plant in South Wales;

(b) providing strategic legal advice on the health liabilities of British Coal;

(c) providing advice in relation to matters which may impact upon a wide range of policy areas associated with British Coal liabilities; and

(d) managing individual litigated claims; and

(ii) claims handling for non-litigated claims (including claims for noise induced hearing loss) and other processing of claims related work.

The service provider is required to cover all legal advice and claims handling in England and Wales and in Scotland.

Carbon Sequestration

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many carbon sequestration and storage projects his Department expects to support in the period of the comprehensive spending review. [49276]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to providing public funding from general taxation for four carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. In the spending review we confirmed up to £1 billion for the capital costs of the first demonstration project. The timing of the provision of funding for the additional three projects will be dependent on the arrangements for providing that funding and the build schedule of the projects selected to receive funding.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the placing of a levy on energy supply companies to fund carbon capture and storage projects. [49297]

Charles Hendry: The Budget document published on 23 March 2011 stated that we will not proceed with a specific levy for carbon capture and storage projects. Our commitment to four demonstration projects will be funded through general taxation.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of funding for carbon sequestration and storage projects which will be provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other sources in the comprehensive spending review period. [49428]

Charles Hendry: The Budget document published on 23 March 2011 stated that the Government's commitment to four demonstration projects will be funded through general taxation. In the spending review period commencing April 2011, we have confirmed up to £1 billion for the capital costs of the first demonstration project. The timing of the provision of funding for the additional three projects will be dependent on the arrangements for providing that funding and the build schedule of the projects selected to receive funding.

Some CCS demonstration projects may also receive funding under the European Commission's new entrants reserve funding mechanism for CCS projects of up to 50% of their eligible costs.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 109W, on departmental procurement, on what date the project for carbon capture and storage commenced. [49503]

Charles Hendry: The then Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) published the Project Information Memorandum and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire for the "Competition for a Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Demonstration Project" on 19 November 2007.

The project is currently under negotiations, with contract signature expected before the end of 2011.

Departmental Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49257]

Gregory Barker: In 2010-11 the Department of Energy and Climate Change provided £3.8 million of funding to seven councils who applied for grants from schemes run by the Department. £2 million of this was provided under the Low Carbon Communities Challenge initiative. A further £1.6 million was provided for the safe management of radioactive waste, with the remainder going towards low carbon and renewable capacity assessments.

These figures do not include any funding which local authorities or councils may have applied for under our various low carbon schemes administered by DECC's appointed delivery partners. It would incur disproportionate costs to obtain this information from delivery partners.

No specific funding has been allocated to local authorities in 2011-12. The Department will continue to offer grants and loans under various schemes for which local authorities may elect to apply.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Renewables Advisory Board. [48707]

Gregory Barker: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I estimate net overall administrative savings from the closure of the Renewables Advisory Board of £200,000 per annum over the spending review period.

This is our best current estimate of planned net savings to emerge from these reforms and is dependent upon the individual timetables for implementation—many of which require the Public Bodies Bill and subsequent secondary legislation.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies. [48708]

Gregory Barker: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimated that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion would flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) of £1,000 per year over the spending review period as a result of the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions he has travelled by London underground on official business since his appointment. [48350]

Gregory Barker: None.

Electricity: Meters

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what reports he has received on the progress of the European Commission's Task Force on Smart Grids. [47638]

Charles Hendry: In October, the European Commission's task force for the implementation of smart grids presented my officials with provisional conclusions on the following topics: standards and interoperability, data protection and handling, and roles and responsibilities.

We look forward to receiving the final reports in June 2011 which will help inform our discussion in the smart grid forum which we are co-chairing with Ofgem.

Energy: National Policy Statements

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to designate National Policy Statement EN-5 in respect of electricity networks infrastructure. [49585]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to bringing forward the energy National Policy Statements, including EN-5, for approval and designation as soon as possible. We are currently considering the nuclear National Policy Statement in light of the nuclear crisis in Japan before proceeding with the ratification process for EN-5 and the other energy National Policy Statements.

Feed-in Tariffs

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many installations of *(a)* up to 50kW, *(b)* 51 kW to 1MW, *(c)* 1MW to 2MW, *(d)* 2MW to 3MW, *(e)* 3MW to 4MW and *(f)* 4MW to 5MW are participating in the feed-in tariff scheme. [48181]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the number of installations participating in the feed in tariff scheme, disaggregated by the above installed capacity bands, and technology, as at 31 December 2010.

	Solar photovoltaics	*Wind*	*Hydro*	*MicroCHP*	*Anaerobic digestion*	*Total*
0 to 50 kW	17,198	1,005	153	21	—	18,377
51kW to sub 1MW	2	11	6	—	2	21
1MW to sub 2MW	—	—	2	—	—	2
2MW to sub 3MW	—	—	1	—	—	1
3MW to sub 4 MW	—	—	—	—	—	—
4MW to sub 5 MW	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	17,200	1,016	162	21	2	18,401

Fuels: Prices

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what objectives set for his Department are designed to secure the lowest fuel costs for domestic consumers. [49094]

Charles Hendry: DECC published its business plan in November 2011. This plan sets out the priorities for the Department which include the reduction of household energy use through the Green deal and to reform the energy market and work internationally to ensure the UK has a diverse, safe, secure and affordable energy system.

A copy of the departmental business plan can be found online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/business_plan/business_plan.aspx

Hinkley Point C Power Station

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will remove the site at Hinkley Point in Somerset from the list of locations for siting of the new generation of nuclear reactors. [49610]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear National Policy Statement will contain a list of the sites that are potentially suitable for deployment of new nuclear power stations by 2025. The Government recently consulted on the revised draft Nuclear National Policy Statement including whether Hinkley Point is a potentially suitable site. We are now considering the responses to the consultation. The Nuclear National Policy Statement will also be considered in light of the emerging events in Japan.

Methane: Landfill

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his estimate is of the extent of the remaining unexploited landfill gas resources in the UK; [49618]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the level of methane generated by landfills which is converted into renewable energy. [49619]

Gregory Barker: The UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2010 estimates methane generated from landfills in 2008 as 3642 Kt, of which an estimated 1164 Kt was utilised for renewable energy generation. Therefore, there remained an estimated 2478 Kt methane emitted from landfills in the UK in 2008 that was not utilised.

Further information is set out in Table A 3.8.3, Annex 3.8, UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2010. A copy of this document can be viewed at:

http://www.naei.org.uk/report_link.php?report_id=593.

Nuclear Power Stations: EU Action

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the nature is of the stress tests of operational nuclear power plants agreed at the special meeting of EU member state energy Ministers, nuclear safety regulators and operators and vendors of nuclear power plants on 15 March 2011. [49733]

Charles Hendry: At the specially convened EU meeting in Brussels on 15 March 2011 there was a general consensus that a measure to "stress test" EU nuclear power plants would be sensible and prudent. The European Council meeting on the 25 March also agreed to the proposal for "stress tests" and asked the European Commission and National Regulators to develop the criteria on the basis of the lessons to be learned from Japan.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria he plans to put in place to monitor the emissions performance standards for new power plants. [49278]

Charles Hendry: The Electricity Market Reform consultation contained proposals to introduce an Emissions Performance Standard (EPS), targeted at preventing the construction and operation of new, unabated coal-fired power stations. The consultation closed on 10 March, and we are now in the process of analysing responses.

We will now continue to work with stakeholders to develop the shape of reforms which we will take forward as final recommendations in a White Paper before summer recess.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations on his decision to undertake a consultation on the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs for small-scale low-carbon electricity. [48878]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has consulted with Ministers in the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments on proposals to begin the early review of FITs and on the fast track review proposals. There has also been contact on these proposals at official level. The Feed-in Tariff scheme does not apply in Northern Ireland.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to maintain levels of employment in the solar photovoltaic manufacturing sector; and if he will make a statement. [48883]

Gregory Barker: We are committed to ensure that the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme continues to be a success. Factors such as levels of employment will be considered as part of the comprehensive review of the scheme.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's estimate is of the number of *(a)* school, *(b)* hospital, *(c)* other public building and *(d)* other community building solar photovoltaic projects between 50 and 100 kilowatts that will be installed under the feed-in tariff scheme before 1 August 2011. [48879]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not currently hold this information.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) on what date he expects the first solar farm greater than one megawatt to be *(a)* installed, *(b)* grid connected and *(c)* commissioned under his Department's feed-in tariff scheme; [48880]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of solar farms greater than one megawatt that will be installed and commissioned before 1 August 2011. [48882]

Gregory Barker: The Department is aware of nine solar photovoltaic (PV) projects over 1MW receiving planning permission over the period between September 2010 and the announcement of the review of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme on 7 February.

The actual commissioning date for these and any other such projects will depend on a range of factors independent of the FITs scheme.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's estimate is of the change in the number of jobs in the solar industry which will result from the changes proposed in the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs for small-scale low-carbon electricity. [48881]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold this information at present, but we will be looking at issues of this kind as part of the comprehensive review of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether solar photovoltaic installations which are under construction but have not received accreditation by 1 August 2011 will receive the current tariffs under the Feed-in Tariff scheme. [48884]

Gregory Barker: Under the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme, the eligibility date is set out in the modifications to the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licences made by the Secretary of State under section 42(3) of the Energy Act 2008. The eligibility date is defined as the later of:

i) receipt by Ofgem or, in the case of wind, solar PV and hydro schemes up to 50kW, a licensed FITs supplier, of an application for accreditation and registration. This application must include a range of information, including a generation meter reading.

ii) Commissioning date.

iii) the launch of the FIT Scheme (1 April 2010).

Application of the regulation is the responsibility of Ofgem.

Wind Power

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure sufficient supply chain capacity to meet his targets for the construction of offshore wind power installations. [48184]

Charles Hendry: The development of the offshore wind sector, and the associated supply chain and wider service market that will support it, creates significant potential for UK employment and economic growth. While we have no technology-specific targets, the Government recognise that offshore wind is a key technology for meeting our 2020 renewables target.

We recognise that providing sufficient confidence to wind farm developers is key to the development of the UK renewables sector, and will enable the early investment in the expansion that will be needed in supply chain capacity.

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising large scale renewable electricity. By way of the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2011, from 1 April 2011 we are introducing phasing for offshore wind generation stations, allowing developers to phase the support they receive under the RO, with each phase receiving the full 20 years of RO support for RO stations. This will better reflect the construction programme of offshore wind stations.

The recent Electricity Market Reform consultation set out proposals for a new support scheme for all low carbon technologies. We are committed to supporting investment in renewables and therefore have also consulted on the best way to transition from the RO to the new scheme. A White Paper, setting out legislative proposals to implement the new electricity arrangements as well as more details on the planned transition from the RO will be published later this year.

We have also put in place an innovative regulatory regime for offshore electricity transmission, so that the connections to offshore wind farms can be delivered in a cost-effective, timely and secure manner. A key element of the regime is the competitive tender process run by Ofgem to appoint Offshore Transmission Owners. We consider that this will deliver cheaper and timelier offshore grid connections, encourage innovation through competition and enable new entrants to compete in the market.

In addition, in October 2010 the Department has committed up to £60 million to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites, to meet the needs of offshore wind manufacturers looking to locate new facilities within the assisted areas in England.

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that power utility companies auction power contracts for renewable sources for the purpose of aiding stability in future revenues to investors in wind farm projects. [49106]

Charles Hendry: The Government published proposals in the electricity market reform consultation in December 2010 to reform the electricity market arrangements to meet our decarbonisation and security of supply goals in a cost-effective way. We will publish final reforms in a White Paper before summer recess.

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to support the UK offshore wind industry in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 years. [49107]

Charles Hendry: The Department has put in place a number of steps to support the offshore wind industry.

The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising large scale renewable electricity. By way of the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2011, from 1 April 2011 we are introducing phasing for offshore wind generation stations, allowing developers to phase the support they receive under the RO, with each phase receiving the full 20 years of RO support for RO stations. This will better reflect the construction programme of offshore wind stations.

The recent electricity market reform (EMR) consultation set out proposals for a new support scheme for all low carbon technologies. We are committed to supporting investment in renewables and therefore have also consulted on the best way to transition from the RO to the new scheme. A White Paper, setting out legislative proposals to implement the new electricity arrangements as well as more details on the planned transition from the RO will be published later this year.

We have also put in place an innovative regulatory regime for offshore electricity transmission, so that the connections to offshore wind farms can be delivered in a cost-effective, timely and secure manner. A key element of the regime is the competitive tender process run by Ofgem to appoint offshore transmission owners (OFTOs). We consider that this will deliver cheaper and timelier offshore grid connections, encourage innovation through competition and enable new entrants to compete in the market.

Further, in October 2010 we announced that we will commit up to £60 million to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites, to meet the needs of offshore wind manufacturers looking to locate new facilities within the Assisted Areas in England.

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals for a main cluster or region to serve as a main support area for offshore wind farms. [49108]

Charles Hendry: The development of the offshore wind sector has significant potential for employment and economic growth at UK coastal locations, and the Department has committed up to £60 million to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites, to meet the needs of offshore wind manufacturers looking to locate new facilities in England.

However it is for manufacturers, developers and operators, not Government, to decide where the best locations are for their activities from a business perspective.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Credit Unions

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the funding allocated to encourage the growth of credit unions will be spent in Northern Ireland. [48166]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions has allocated funding of £73 million to expand and modernise third sector organisations from within its own departmental allocation. It is not within our remit to fund provision in Northern Ireland.

During April to September the Department will manage a feasibility study to examine the scope and the options for the modernisation and expansion of the sector.

Credit unions and other community financial institutions that already hold a contract with the Department will have the opportunity of extending those contracts, subject to selection criteria, during this time.

Following feasibility testing, decisions will be made on the way forward and a further announcement will be made.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Boarding Schools

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provides financial assistance to his officials for boarding school fees for their children. [48515]

Mr Davey: In the event of a member of staff being posted overseas the Department can provide an additional living cost allowance. This includes a contribution towards basic school fees in the country of posting. The last claim for such fees was paid in 2007. There is no provision to provide financial assistance for boarding school fees in the United Kingdom.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45043]

Mr Davey: The Department's conference and catering contractor Baxterstorey use two fish suppliers.

In 2010 fish supplied from one supplier were 98% compliant to the Marine Conservation Society's red list (2% non compliance based on purchase of plaice); during 2011 this has risen to 98.5%.

In 2010 and 2011 fish supplied from the other supplier were 99% compliant to the Marine Conservation Society's red list (1% non compliance based on purchase of plaice and marlin loin.)

The purchase of plaice and marlin has its own internal sustainable logic as plaice is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list as a species of least concern and marlin is not listed at all (therefore no concern of sustainability.)

Baxterstorey's current fish procurement processes include:

Not purchasing any species cited as endangered on the IUCN's red list:

www.iucn.org

Working only with suppliers that have a strong focus on sustainable fishing practices;

Actively promoting seasonal and sustainable purchase since 2004

promoting to our chefs website tools such as:

www.fishonline.org/advice/eat/

(Marine Conservation Society) and now using the good catch manual for advice and regional/seasonal species knowledge;

Engaging with local UK fishermen working alongside organisations such as Good Catch/Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and suppliers who have been at the forefront of the sustainable fisheries movement;

Remain focused on all aspects of sustainable seafood including animal welfare (e.g. support the use of responsibly farmed Salmon such as Freedom Food accredited farmed salmon from Scotland which is monitored by the RSPCA);

Only supply tinned tuna that is sustainably and bio diversity sensitively fished; and

Worked alongside the MSC to secure funding via DEFRA greener living fund which is enabling the MSC to further promote its sustainable options to the food service industry.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Information for the Department's non-department public bodies is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from John Alty, dated 21 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 3^{rd} March 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an operating name of the Patent Office, does not directly procure seafood.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 8 March 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) to estimate the proportion of seafood it has procured that was (i) on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date.

Please be advised that the Agency does not directly purchase fish. Its caterers are committed to responsible sourcing and all fish products are sourced within UK and international regulatory guidelines.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 March 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that was (i) on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills procured no fish on the Marine Society's list from 2010 to date.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 16 March 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 3 March 2011, U1N45043 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House does not procure seafood directly but our contracted catering provider only sources fish from approved suppliers.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 17 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled 03 March 2011, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for its Department, Agencies and non-departmental public bodies that was (i) on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid, and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date.

NMO has responsibility for its site in Teddington that also houses the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), a Government Owned Contractor Operated body. We provide restaurant and hospitality facilities for NPL and NMO through a total facilities management contract. We have received verbal assurance from the catering sub-contractor, Baxter-Storey, that (i) no fish provided were on the list to avoid, and (ii) we have also complied with the sustainability standards mentioned above, for both the periods (A) and (B) above.

Employment: Mothers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the proportion of mothers of children aged between nine and 12 months in each region who were in (a) full-time and (b) part-time work in each of the last five years. [48248]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the proportion of mothers of children aged between nine and twelve months in each region who were in a) full-time and b) part-time work in each of the last five years. (48248)

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The attached table shows estimates of women aged 16 to 64, with children aged nine to twelve months, by Government Office Region for 2005 to 2009.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

Table: Percentage of mothers[1], whose youngest child is aged 9 to 12 months, in full and part-time employment January to December 2005-09

Percentage

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
UK	19.3	20.0	19.6	22.3	20.9	31.8	36.5	34.8	32.9	37.0
England	17.2	19.4	19.6	20.9	20.2	32.2	37.0	34.4	32.8	37.4
North East	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
North West	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	36.8	37.5	30.5	29.1	30.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	32.6	39.7	38.5	35.4	38.9
East Midlands	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	40.5	39.4	[2]—	[2]—
West Midlands	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	37.0	37.3	26.4	40.8
Eastern	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	38.3	37.4	41.4	47.5
London	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	24.1	27.3	25.7	20.6	25.7
South East	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	41.0	40.9	34.5	40.8	40.8
South West	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	39.7	42.4	40.6	40.4	42.5
Wales	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	33.5	33.4	35.5	29.9	45.7
Scotland	23.0	17.1	20.9	26.4	26.4	34.0	34.9	38.4	37.1	32.0
Northern Ireland	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Aged 16 to 64

[2] Estimates are considered unreliable for practical purposes. This is because of small sample sizes.

Source:

APS household dataset

Further Education: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time lecturers were employed in the further education sector in Greater London in each of the last three years. [47980]

Mr Hayes: The numbers of full and part time further education teaching staff employed in Greater London in each of the last three years are set out in the following table:

	2007/08		*2008/09*		*2009/10*	
	Full time	*Part time*	*Full time*	*Part time*	*Full time*	*Part time*
Greater London	5,072	10,929	6,424	13,865	5,999	11,500

Note:

Mode was unknown for 52 staff in 2007/08 and 65 staff in 2008/09. These staff have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Staff Individualised Record (SIR) Data.

The occupational category "providing teaching and promoting learning" is used to derive the primary role of each member of staff from the proportion of time that a member of staff spends on this activity. This definition varies slightly to that used in the annual SIR report so staff numbers may vary slightly between these sources.

Higher Education: Business

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 876-81W, on higher education, what the monetary value is of university spin-offs established with funding from his Department and its predecessors in the last five years; how many jobs have been created in such spin-offs in that period; and if he will make a statement. [49291]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not systematically collect information on the monetary value of all university spin-offs established or the number of jobs created in such spin-offs.

Estimates of turnover, external investment and employment in active spin-off firms are collected by the Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction survey (HE-BCI), which is currently conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 1 shows (a) the numbers of active spin-off firms; (b) estimated current employment of all active firms; (c) estimated current turnover of all active firms; and (d) estimated external investment received for UK higher education institution (HEI) in the last five years.

Table 1: University spin-offs, 2005-06 to 2009-10[1,2,3]

	Number of active firms	*Estimated current employment of all active firms (FTE)*	*Estimated current turnover of all active firms (£000, cash terms)*	*Estimated external investment received (£000, cash terms)*
2005-06	1,143	16,223	528,582	[4]—
2006-07	1,230	12,226	599,148	[4]—
2007-08	1,307	13,988	1,131,865	846,632
2008-09	1,311	14,180	1,511,010	699,702
2009-10	1,340	16,942	1,761,873	1,139,443

[1] Spin-offs include those with some HEI ownership.
[2] 2005-06 to 2007-08 data collected by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England); 2008-09 to 2009-10 by HESA.
[3] Active firms may include those older than five years old.
[4] Not available. *Source:*
Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction survey (HE-BCI).

Horticulture: Qualifications

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many degree courses in horticulture there were in *(a)* 2000-01 and *(b)* 2010-11. [49765]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects information on students in UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The most recent data available cover the 2009/10 academic year; figures for 2010/11 will be available in January 2011.

HESA uses the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) to code a student's subject of study. Horticulture is not explicitly listed as a category within the JACS coding system, but falls within the principal subject of agriculture. The subject groups, as well as the way in which students were assigned to their subject of study, changed in 2002/03, making earlier figures incomparable. Therefore, figures for 2002/03 and 2009/10, which are calculated on the same basis, have been provided.

In 2009/10, 37 HEIs reported a total of 3,450 students as studying first degrees in agriculture. The comparable figures for 2002/03 were 40 HEIs with 3,635 first degree agriculture students. More than one agriculture-related degree course may be taught at any of these institutions.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the operation of *(a)* knowledge transfer partnerships, *(b)* knowledge transfer networks, *(c)* collaborative research and development funding and *(d)* the Small Business Rescue Initiative; how much his Department has allocated to each initiative in each of (i) the last five years and (ii) the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [47450]

Mr Willetts: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, Knowledge Transfer Networks and Collaborative R&D are subject to a comprehensive but proportionate prior assessment and ex-post evaluation of their impact and value for money. These assessments follow a comprehensive set of criteria as outlined in the HM Treasury (HMT) Green Book. This involves two steps: identifying the rationale for Government intervention, and; applying cost benefit analysis to show that the intervention is additional, non-distortionary and value for money.

Assessments include periodic monitoring surveys the last of which took place in 2007 for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, 2006 for Knowledge Transfer Networks, and 2009 for Collaborative R&D. Furthermore, the Technology Strategy Board, which has overall responsibility for delivery, has reviewed Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in 2010, Knowledge Transfer Networks in 2008 and Collaborative Research and Development is currently under review.

The Small Business Research initiative has only been in operation since April 2009. While it is still too early for a full review, an initial analysis was carried out by NESTA in June 2010.

The Department in 2006/07, and in subsequent years the Technology Strategy Board, has allocated the following funding to each initiative (the figures do not take into account other sources of funding):

Initiative	*£000*
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	
2006/07	21,130
2007/08	34,636
2008/09	25,841
2009/10	21,782
Knowledge Transfer Networks	
2006/07	16,071
2007/08	17,473
2008/09	19,816
2009/10	19,553
Collaborative Research and Development	
2006/07	50,042
2007/08	124,631

Initiative	*£000*
2008/09	113,814
2009/10	196,844
Small Business Research Initiative	
2009/10	4,884

Funding levels for 2010/11 have yet to be finalised and future spend cannot be specified at this stage either as the different interventions are often used in concert to deliver programmes prioritised by the Technology Strategy Board.

Public Houses: Manpower

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the change in the number of jobs in the beer and pub industry and its supply chain over the last three years. [48847]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate in the change in the number of jobs in the beer and pub industry and its supply chain over the last three years. (48847)

Annual statistics on the number of employees are published by ONS in its annual employment statistics from the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES). These figures detail the number of employees and exclude the self employed. An estimate of jobs, which includes self employed, would only be available through the Labour Force Survey but, due to BRES having a superior level of accuracy of industrial classification ONS has used the latter as its source for the information provided in the following table. The latest period to which figures are available is 2009.

Table 1 provides information showing the numbers of employees engaged in the industries 'manufacturing of beer' and 'public houses and bars' in Great Britain for 2008 and 2009.

Table 1: Number of employees in Great Britain for defined industries

Thousand

5-digit Standard Industrial Classification	*Period* 2008	2009
11050: Manufacture of beer	14.2	15.1
56302: Public houses and bars	424.9	418.6
Total	439.0	433.6

Technology Strategy Board

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Technology Strategy Board, on what date he plans to publish the core budget for the Technology Strategy Board for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [49537]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board will be formally notified of its allocation for the spending review period by the end of this month.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to how many businesses the Technology Strategy Board has provided funds in each of the last five years; and to how many businesses he estimates it will provide funds in each of the next three years. [49538]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 887W. This gives the full years' figures to date. The Technology Strategy Board has only been operational since July 2007.

Trade Unions: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 720-2W on trade unions: training, how many courses provided by trade unions received funding from the public purse in each year for which figures are available; what the titles of such courses were; and how much funding was provided for each such course. [48395]

Mr Hayes: The Government have provided funding to trade unions to support a number of programmes but do not keep a central record of expenditure. The main source of Government funding over recent years to support trade union learning activity has been from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

This Department provides funding to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation, which administers ULF on behalf of the Department.

Trade unions are invited to submit proposals for ULF funding on an annual basis against a prospectus which clearly sets out the aims and objectives of ULF and the priorities for that year which are agreed with this Department. ULF is not used to fund the provision of education or training courses but enables trade unions and their union learning representatives to provide advice, guidance and support in order to help workers, particularly those with low skills, access learning opportunities to improve their skill levels. The ULF prospectus for 2011-12 was published on the unionlearn website in December 2010 and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

This Department has also funded three rounds of the Union Modernisation Fund, a grant scheme designed to support innovative projects to help unions adapt to changing labour market conditions. Training programmes for union officers and representatives were provided as part of some of these projects.

A number of trade unions have received funding to support workforce development activity, which may have included the provision of training courses, at a regional level from either the skills funding agency (SFA, formerly the Learning and Skills Council) or a regional development agency (RDA).

Detailed information, including the titles and costs of courses supported under the Union Modernisation Fund or through SFA/LSC and RDA regional workforce development activity is not held centrally by the Department. To collate and research this information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department made of the merits of the recommendations of the National Audit Office's report on major trauma care in England; [49173]

(2) whether his Department has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the National Audit Office's report on major trauma care in England. [49174]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and the national health service accepted the recommendations of the National Audit Office's report "Major trauma care in England" and are working to implement them in full. Strategic health authorities are leading the development of Regional Trauma Networks for major trauma care and the Department is assisting them in this process. Four networks are already in operation in London and further networks will start operating to cover the whole of England during the financial year 2011-12.

Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many allergy *(a)* consultants and *(b)* training posts there are in the NHS. [49208]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is given in the following table, together with information on doctors in immunology who also provide services to allergy patients.

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff within the allergy and immunology specialties by grade, England at 30 September 2010

Numbers (headcount)[1]

	Total allergy and immunology	*Allergy*	*Immunology*
All Staff	130	22	108
Career Grade	83	12	71
Consultant (including Director of Public Health)	80	12	68
Associate Specialist	3		
Specialty Doctor	0	0	0
Staff Grade	0	0	0
Doctors in Training and Equivalents[2]	45	10	35
Registrar Group	40	10	30
Senior House Officer	1	0	1
Foundation Year 2	2	0	2
House Officer and Foundation Year 1	2	0	2
All Other Staff	2	0	2
Hospital Practitioner/ Clinical Assistant	2	0	2
Other Staff	0	0	0

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the 2010 Census publication:
An overview of the NHS workforce including medical, non-medical and GP staff at an England level and by SHA
The NHS Information Centre
[2] Doctors in training and equivalents refers to the registrar group, senior house officer, foundation year 2, house officer and foundation programme year 1, other doctors in training and other staff at these grades that do not hold an educationally approved training post.
Data Quality:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people with a condition that requires the help of an allergy specialist for diagnosis and management. [49209]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not held centrally. In 2009-10, there were some 97,000 out-patient visits, including 39,000 first attendances, to out-patient clinics in the specialties of allergy, clinical immunology and allergy, and paediatric immunology and allergy. However, many patients with allergies will be managed in primary care or by specialists in other disciplines and estimates of the numbers concerned are not routinely available centrally.

Estimates of the prevalence of the most common or serious allergic conditions (asthma, rhinitis, eczema, anaphylaxis, food allergy, drug allergy) were presented in a supporting document to the Department's "Review of services for allergy" (2006).

Allergies: Food

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to improve knowledge of allergies among GPs in order to implement guidelines of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the effective diagnosis of food allergy in a primary care setting. [49514]

Paul Burstow: All doctors, including general practitioners (GPs), are responsible for maintaining the knowledge and skills needed for their clinical practice and for keeping abreast of important new guidance such as that in guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). In addition, GPs have access to guidance from sources such as "Clinical Knowledge Summaries" and Patient UK which cross-refer to NICE guidance as appropriate.

Autism: Carers

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to improve the support available to individuals with autism and their carers. [49218]

Paul Burstow: Important steps have already been taken to improve the support available to individuals with autism and their carers, through the Government's firm commitment to drive forward the adult autism strategy, "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: the strategy for adults with autism in England" (3 March 2010) and to tackle the disadvantages which people with autism and their families often face.

This Government launched the new autism statutory guidance for health and social care, "Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives" (17 December 2010) to assist these bodies to develop services that support and meet the locally identified needs of people with autism and their families and carers and enable local transparency and accountability.

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Birth Certificates: Babies

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department issues guidance to NHS practitioners on the issuing of birth and death certificates for *(a)* babies born at under 22 weeks of pregnancy and *(b)* non-viable neonates. [49011]

Anne Milton: The Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, as amended, provides for the doctor or midwife who is present at a stillbirth or examines the body of a stillborn child to issue a medical certificate of stillbirth and for that stillbirth to be registered. A stillbirth is defined by the above Act as a child born dead after 24 weeks' gestation (the legal age of viability). A certificate of stillbirth and a certificate for burial or cremation are issued by the registrar.

If a baby is born alive at any gestation a birth certificate will be issued. However, if the baby dies within 28 days of birth, the doctor who saw the baby before death issues a certificate certifying the death. This certificate must always be issued, even if the baby lived for only a few minutes.

The birth of a baby born before 24 weeks who did not breathe or show any signs of life, cannot legally be registered. However, when a baby is born dead before 24 weeks, hospitals may issue a local certificate to commemorate the baby's birth.

Childbirth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to NHS practitioners on the medical assessment and treatment of babies born *(a)* between 22 and 25 weeks, *(b)* at under 22 weeks and *(c)* at under 21 weeks of pregnancy; and when this guidance was last reviewed. [49012]

Anne Milton: The Government have not issued specific guidance on the treatment of extremely premature babies. Clinical interventions in such situations are made on a case-by-case basis by the health care staff concerned.

To assist in these situations, the British Association of Perinatal Medicine published guidance in October 2008 entitled "The Management of Babies born Extremely Preterm at less than 26 weeks of gestation: A Framework for Clinical Practice at the time of Birth", which is based on the latest evidence and best practice. The guidance can be found at:

www.bapm.org/media/documents/publications/Approved%20manuscript%20preterm%20final.pdf

The British Association of Perinatal Medicine standards are recommended rather than mandatory.

Departmental Freedom of Information Requests

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answers of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 862W, and 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1676W, on departmental freedom of information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the response to each request to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* contraception, *(c)* reproductive health issues and *(d)* euthanasia where the request was agreed to and answered in (i) full and (ii) part since October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [48966]

Mr Simon Burns: Copies of the information requested by the hon. Member have been placed in the Library.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition; [48636]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the National Joint Registry Steering Committee; [48637]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care; [48638]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation; [48639]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV; [48642]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Human Genetics Commission; [48644]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Genetics and Insurance Committee; [48648]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee; [48650]

(9) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; [48661]

(10) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens; [48662]

(11) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances. [48663]

Mr Simon Burns: The current running costs of advisory non-departmental public bodies are small and the opportunities for savings are corresponding in size. Once the changes signalled in the Public Bodies review are enacted, these committees, if not abolished, will be reconstituted as either committees of experts or stakeholder advisory groups, and are likely to incur similar running costs.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Independent Review Panel for the Advertising of Medicines; [48640]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Independent Review Panel on the Classification of Borderline Products; [48641]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee; [48646]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Committee on the Safety of Devices; [48653]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Board on the Registration of Homeopathic Products. [48665]

Mr Simon Burns: The current running costs of advisory non-departmental public bodies are small and the opportunities for savings are corresponding in size. Once the changes signalled in the Public Bodies review are enacted, these committees will be reconstituted as committees of experts, and are likely to incur similar running costs.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Human Tissue Authority; [48643]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; [48645]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Health Protection Agency; [48647]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the General Social Care Council; [48649]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence; [48652]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Appointments Commission; [48658]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Alcohol Education and Research Council; [48659]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of Monitor. [48772]

Mr Simon Burns: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, updating Parliament on progress on Public Bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Department is currently working with its executive non-departmental public bodies (ENDPBs), to agree business plans and budgets for 2011-12 onwards. This process has not been concluded, therefore we are not in a position to provide savings estimates for individual ENDPBs.

However from a baseline of 2010-11 plans, the Department has reduced annual grant in aid contribution to its ENDPB core services by £67 million.

This is our best current estimate of planned savings to emerge from these reforms. They are dependent upon individual timetables for implementation and linked to the wider modernisation of the health system. The savings in many instances also require the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill and the Public Bodies Bill and subsequent secondary legislation.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS; [48651]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Committee on the Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; [48654]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment; [48655]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants; [48656]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Committee on Carcogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; [48657]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis; [48660]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection. [48664]

Mr Simon Burns: The current running costs of advisory non-departmental public bodies are small and the opportunities for savings are corresponding in size. Once the changes signalled in the Public Bodies review are enacted, these committees will be reconstituted as committees of experts, and are likely to incur similar running costs.

Drugs: Parents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on the number of children living in households in which a parent is dependent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* hard drugs. [48482]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of children living in households in which a parent was dependent on alcohol and drugs is not available.

However, the 2007 "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey" (APMS) provides information on the percentage of adults who live with one or more of their children, step children, foster children or children-in-law and who are dependent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drugs.

In the survey, 3.8% of people aged 16 or over reported being dependent on alcohol, where dependency is defined as a score of 16 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test. Of those adults, 29% lived in a household with one or more of their children, step children, foster children or children-in-law.

3.3% of people aged 16 or over reported being dependent on drugs. The drugs covered were cannabis, amphetamines, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin/methadone, tranquillisers and volatile substances, but excluded LSD, magic mushrooms, amyl nitrite, and anabolic steroids, (as these types of drugs are less associated with the development of dependency). Of those adults, 27% lived in a household with one or more of their children, step children, foster children or children-in-law.

The following table breaks down the number of children per household.

Number of their children, step children, foster children or children-in-law living in the household	*Alcohol*	*Drugs*
0	71	73
1	11	10
2	11	12
3 or more	6	5

Source:
APMS, 2007

Given that some households contain more than one dependent adult, this information cannot be used to estimate the number of children living in households in which an adult was dependent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drugs, as double counting would occur.

Epilepsy: Drugs

Jacob Rees-Mogg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 769-70W, on epilepsy: drugs, if he will discuss with representatives of Bath and North East Somerset Primary Care Trust the use of stiripentol for the treatment of Dravet syndrome. [49246]

Paul Burstow: This is a matter for Bath and North East Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT).

In making funding decisions on individual treatments, PCTs are expected to take account of the available evidence.

General Practitioners

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to make to reimburse GPs who meet quality standards under his proposals for GP commissioning. [49110]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have proposed that consortia that achieve high quality outcomes from the resources available to them should receive a 'quality premium', which the consortia can then disburse between the general practitioners' (GP) practices that are members of the consortia.

We will discuss further with the profession how to develop these arrangements so that they create the right incentives for collaborative work between practices to improve quality and outcomes and enable GPs to make the right clinical judgments for individual patients.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of any relationship between the size of population covered by a GP commissioning consortium and the running costs per head of population of commissioning healthcare. [49315]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment of the Health and Social Care Bill assesses the benefits, costs and risks of implementing the policies proposed in the NHS White Paper Equity and Excellence that require primary legislation. Annex A of the impact assessment covers the proposals on general practitioner (GP) commissioning. It highlights the potential risk of higher transaction costs should GP consortia, on average, commission services on behalf of populations smaller than primary care trusts. It also indicates that there is no consensus on a minimum size to handle the risk and that any risk could be shared through consortia working collaboratively or securing commissioning support from other organisations.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the per patient management allowance budget for GP consortia will be uniform across England. [49316]

Mr Simon Burns: The expectation is that general practitioner (GP) consortia will have an allowance for running costs that could be in the range of £25 to £35 per head of population by 2014-15. We will not determine the exact amount until further work has been undertaken with pathfinders. The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for determining exactly how the available resources for running costs are distributed between consortia.

Health Services: Freedom of Information

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the potential use by private and voluntary providers of health care of information secured from public sector competitors under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [48843]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is not aware of any representations having been made. The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he estimates is owed to NHS bodies *(a)* in London and *(b)* nationally by overseas visitors. [49295]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the total audited losses in respect of bad debts and claims abandoned for overseas visitors in 2009-10 for national health service bodies in London and in England. The table does not include monies owed that NHS hospitals are still in the process of recovering, which is not available centrally.

		£
	London	*England*
2009-10	4,969,161	6,967,780

Note:
We do not collect data from NHS foundation trusts so figures exclude these sites.
Source:
NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to protect patient confidentiality under his proposed changes to the structure of the NHS. [49129]

Mr Simon Burns: Patient confidentiality, as with other aspects of good information governance, is the responsibility of every local organisation and this will not change even where structures do. All bodies providing national health service services are required to evidence their performance in this area annually. The Department provides a code of practice, supporting guidelines in the Information Governance Toolkit, a web-based resource, and free e-learning and other training resources. Sir David Nicholson, the NHS Chief Executive, has written to NHS Chief Executives to stress the importance of maintaining good information governance practice throughout the period of transition.

Mental Health: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department offers to parents of children diagnosed with *(a)* emotional, *(b)* behavioural and *(c)* mental health conditions. [48614]

Paul Burstow: The national health service provides support to parents whose children are receiving treatment for mental health conditions, including emotional and behavioural problems. This can take several forms e.g. parent therapy, family therapy and support while their child is receiving therapy or medication. The only exceptions would be the small number of cases where the young person is competent to make their own decisions, and they decide that they do not want their parents involved, and the young person does not pose a danger to themselves or others.

The refreshed carers strategy "Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy" sets out the actions that the Government will take over the next four years to ensure the best possible outcomes for carers and those they support. These include supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the outset, both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages.

New funding of £6 million has been made available to identify and support carers and an additional £400 million has been announced to provide breaks for all carers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for referrals to the child and adolescent mental health service in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [48615]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected by the Department.

"The Operating Framework for the NHS in England in 2011/12" stated that national health service organisations should pay particular attention to groups with specific needs including child and adolescent mental health services.

We are investing funds to expand access to psychological therapies to children and young people. This will enable the development and initiation of a stand-alone programme to extend access to psychological therapies for children and young people building on learning from the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. The programme will include a range of evidence-based therapies including cognitive behavioural therapy and therapy that works directly with parents.

This will mean that children and young people with a mental health problem such as depression, anxiety or conduct disorder will have better access to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved psychological therapies, alongside any medical treatment they may need from their general practitioner or specialist. It will also mean that their parents will receive relevant support. "Talking Therapies: a four-year plan of action" was published as a supporting document to the Government's mental health strategy "No health without mental health: a cross-government mental health outcomes strategy".

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people diagnosed with chronic depression were referred to a specialist for NHS treatment in the latest period for which figures are available. [48616]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally in the form requested.

NHS

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the average time taken to complete procurement processes conducted by NHS bodies for goods or services worth more than £100,000 in the latest period for which figures are available; [48602]

(2) what proportion of contracts for goods and services issued by the NHS and worth £100,000 or above were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in the latest period for which figures are available; [48603]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of contracts awarded by NHS institutions above the value of £100,000 that have been subject to legal challenge in each of the last three years; [48605]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the number of NHS tender processes for goods or services worth more than £100,000 which have been abandoned or recommenced due to legal challenge or representation in each of the last three years. [48606]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service bodies (whether NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts or primary care trusts) are independent corporate bodies responsible and accountable for conducting their own procurement or tender exercises. This includes taking legal advice as appropriate. The Department itself does not hold any information centrally on such local procurement or tender exercises.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of public satisfaction with the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [48825]

(2) whether his Department has commissioned polls to establish public opinion on the NHS since his appointment. [48837]

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned from Ipsos MORI on public attitudes to the NHS in the last three years; and whether the outcomes of each such piece of research have been published. [48604]

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department last *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received polling data on public or patient satisfaction with the NHS; and whether these data have been published; [49004]

(2) if he will publish the results of the most recent opinion polls commissioned by his Department to measure patient and public satisfaction with the NHS. [49005]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 2000, the Department has commissioned, from Ipsos MORI, tracking surveys of public attitudes towards the national health service and social care. Every tracking survey received by the Department has been published.

I refer the hon. Members to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Leicester West (Liz Kendall) on 3 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1074W, which explained that the reports for 2008 to 2010 were being placed in the Library. Future surveys will be published in line with the Department's freedom of information publication scheme.

NHS Blood and Transplant

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the potential effect on donor goodwill of any proposal to remove NHS Blood and Transplant from the public sector. [49166]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Easington (Grahame M. Morris) on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 991W.

NHS Blood and Transplant monitors donor attendance, experience and satisfaction on a regular basis.

NHS: Private Sector

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treatment carried out by the private sector on behalf of the NHS in respect of *(a)* learning difficulties, *(b)* mental illness, *(c)* maternity care, *(d)* general and acute care, *(e)* accident and emergency service provision, *(f)* community health services and *(g)* other contracted services in the latest period for which figures are available. [49312]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows expenditure by national health service commissioners (primary care trusts) in England on the purchase of NHS treatment from non-NHS bodies for 2009-10, broken down by sector and the medical specialities requested; information is also held on expenditure on primary healthcare and revenue grants to local authorities (LAs) and private sector contractors and bodies to fund capital projects.

2009-10 Purchase of healthcare from non-NHS bodies

£000

	Independent sector treatment centres	*Other private sector providers*	*Voluntary sector*	*Other including local authorities*
Primary Healthcare	1,226	56,570	9,085	35,065
Learning Difficulties	2,765	326,649	39,783	1,320,555
Mental Illness	1,868	866,893	145,173	364,699
Maternity	444	6,277	1,241	1,960
General and Acute	345,988	761,336	75,297	107,624
Accident and Emergency	2,230	2,709	4,531	42
Community Health Services	1,619	836,869	139,556	455,504
Other Contractual	16,918	886,672	143,952	431,282

2009-10 Purchase of healthcare from non-NHS bodies

£000

	Independent sector treatment centres	*Other private sector providers*	*Voluntary sector*	*Other including local authorities*
Grants (revenue) to LAs and private sector to fund Capital Projects	—	21,538	1,828	32,378
Total Healthcare Purchased from non-NHS Bodies	373,058	3,765,513	560,445	2,749,109
Total	7,448,125			

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts 2009-10.

NIHR Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the National Institute for Health Research Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology; and if he will make a statement. [49627]

Mr Simon Burns: The new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology, based at Queen Elizabeth hospital Birmingham, a £20 million joint initiative between the NIHR, the Ministry of Defence, university hospitals Birmingham and the university of Birmingham, launched on 20 January 2011.

This initiative will bring both military and civilian trauma surgeons and scientists together to share innovation in medical research and advanced clinical practice in the battlefield to benefit all trauma patients in the national health service at an early stage of injury.

Research will focus initially on today's most urgent challenges in trauma including:

identifying effective resuscitation techniques;

surgical care after multiple injuries or amputation; and

fighting wound infections.

Primary Care Trusts: Redundancy

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will be made redundant as a result of the abolition of primary care trusts. [49317]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff employed by primary care trusts who will be transferred to positions within GP consortia. [49318]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments arising from the closure of primary care trusts. [49319]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government estimates that there will be around 17,000 redundancies as a result of the abolition of primary care trusts (PCTs), at an estimated cost of £768 million. It is estimated that 60% of PCT staff will transfer over to general practitioner consortia or the NHS Commissioning Board. Fuller details are given in the "co-ordinating document" for the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill, which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Skin Cancer: Young People

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps his Department has undertaken to address trends in the incidence of melanoma in young adults; [48972]

(2) what his policy is on steps to reduce the incidence of life-threatening malignant melanomas. [48975]

Anne Milton: SunSmart is the national skin cancer prevention campaign and is run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments. SunSmart highlights the importance of sun protection and early detection of skin cancers including melanoma. The SunSmart website

http://www.sunsmart.org.uk/

provides information about the most recent campaign including details of the risks associated with cosmetic use of sunbeds. This includes communications designed to attract the notice of young people and the priority audience for 2011 will be 16-24 year olds.

The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 is due to come into force on 8 April 2011. The Act makes it an offence for sunbed businesses to permit under 18s to use sunbeds on their premises. Guidance is being produced for local authorities to support the enforcement of the Act.

Smoking

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the incidence of smoking among *(a)* adults, *(b)* children and *(c)* young people among (i) men and (ii) women in each socio-economic group in each of the last 10 years. [48471]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested. We hold information for adults (aged 16 and over) and young people (aged 11 to 15) but we do not hold information for children under 11.

Information on the prevalence of cigarette smoking in England for adults aged 16 and over from 1978 to 2009 can be found in table 1.10 of "General Lifestyle Survey 2009". Information is presented by country and sex.

Information on the prevalence of cigarette smoking for adults in England aged 16 and over by sex and socio-economic classification (of the household reference person) from 2001 to 2009 can be found in table 1.7 of "General Lifestyle Survey: Smoking and drinking among adults 2009". These tables are available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_compendia/GLF09/GLFSmoking-DrinkingAmongAdults2009.pdf

Table 3.1a of "Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2009" shows smoking behaviour among young people aged 11 to 15 by sex for the period 1982 to 2000. Table 3.1b shows the same information for the period 2001 to 2009. These are available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd09fullreport

Both of these publications have already been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Working Hours

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of working days lost due to the effects of *(a)* smoking and *(b)* alcohol consumption in each of the last five years. [48620]

Anne Milton: The data requested on smoking or alcohol are not centrally collected.

Smoking is a known cause of absenteeism. The Policy Exchange Report "Cough Up" estimated the cost of absenteeism due to smoking to be between £1.1 billion and £2.5 billion. This report has been placed in the Library.

The interim analytical report for the Alcohol Harm reduction project led by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, published in 2003, estimated that 11 to 17 million working days were lost per year due to alcohol-related sickness and 15 to 20 million days were lost due to reduced employment.

Stroke

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken on best practice in managing the long-term consequences of stroke; and what consideration the NHS has given to potential changes to its services which could be made in consequence. [48842]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department supports a number of projects through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) that are looking at best practice in managing the long-term consequences of stroke.

For instance, the NIHR is supporting a programme of work that aims to understand users' perspectives of longer term need, and policy makers and providers' perspectives of service configurations to address these needs. This will help refine care solutions to implement the Stroke Strategy.

The NIHR also supports a series of Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs). The work of the South Yorkshire CLAHRC in stroke, aims to improve long-term provision and effectiveness of rehabilitation in the community, support self management, and encourage independence, recreation and employment for people living with stroke and their carers. The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire CLAHRC is investigating the commissioning, management and delivery of services that enable stroke survivors to return to work.

To support the national health service to commission and provide evidence based, high quality services, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing a clinical guideline on rehabilitation after stroke. It expects to publish its final guideline in April 2012. NICE is taking the latest available evidence and developments in clinical practice into account when developing this guidance.

In addition, the Stroke Improvement Programme was established to provide national support for local improvement of stroke services across the entire pathway—from early identification of stroke through to managing stroke as a long-term condition. In doing so, it has developed good practice evidence through its own national projects, the learning from which can be rolled out locally.

The Stroke Improvement Programme's (SIP) Accelerating Stroke Improvement programme has nine indicators to measure progress against; four of these cover the long-term part of the care pathway. Information about the activity of SIP is available at:

www.improvement.nhs.uk/stroke/

Surgery

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many urgent operations on the NHS were cancelled in each year since 1997. [49204]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is provided in the following table. The number of operations cancelled prior to 2002 is not held centrally.

Financial year	*Number of urgent operations cancelled*
2002-03	1,809
2003-04	2,489
2004-05	2,000
2005-06	1,975
2006-07	1,909
2007-08	2,456
2008-09	2,339
2009-10	2,534
2010-11[1]	2,389

[1] Data for 2010-11 up to February 2011 only.

Surgery: Walsall

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures have been cancelled in *(a)* Walsall Manor Hospital and *(d)* hospitals in Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust area since May 2010. [49128]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not available in the format requested.

From 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010 there were a total of 149 last minute elective operations cancelled for non clinical reasons in Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust. The quarterly breakdown is shown in the following table.

Number of last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons at Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust

	Quarter	*Period*	*Number of cancelled operations*
2010-11	1	April to June 2010	64
2010-11	2	July to September 2010	60
2010-11	3	October to December 2010	25

Number of last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons at Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust

	Quarter	*Period*	*Number of cancelled operations*
Total			149

Note:
This information is only collected at provider trust level. However, Walsall Manor Hospital is the only acute hospital in the Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust area.
Source:
Department of Health dataset quarterly monitoring cancelled operations

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women in each region aged between 15 and 19 gave birth in each of the last five years. [48301]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of women in each region aged between 15 and 19 gave birth in each of the last five years. [48301]

The latest year for which figures are available is 2009. The table below shows the percentage of women aged between 15 and 19 that gave birth for the years 2005 to 2009. Percentages are based on the number of women aged under 20 giving birth (from birth registration) and the female population aged 15-19 (from mid-year population estimates). Figures are presented for England, Wales and each Government Office Region in England.

Percentage of women aged 15 to 19 giving birth by area of usual residence[1], 2005-09

	Percentage of women aged 15 to 19 giving birth				
Area of usual residence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England, Wales and elsewhere[1]	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5
England	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
Wales	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.9
Government Office Regions within England:					
North East	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.2
North West	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0
East Midlands	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6
West Midlands	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
East	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
London	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2
South East	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
South West	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2

[1] Women who give birth in England and Wales whose usual residence is outside England and Wales are included in the figures for 'England, Wales and elsewhere' but are excluded from any subdivisions of England and Wales. In 2009, only 15 women aged 15 to 19 whose usual residence was outside England and Wales gave birth in England and Wales.

Trauma: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Defence the adoption in NHS hospitals of life-saving techniques developed in military conflict in Afghanistan for the treatment of trauma injuries; and if he will make a statement. [49626]

Mr Simon Burns: There are a number of processes in place to ensure that best practice is shared between the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Defence Medical Services (DMS) and the national health service. We accept that the NHS can learn from the skills and techniques developed in military conflict, to the benefit of civilian patients.

When not on deployment, DMS medical personnel maintain their clinical skills in the NHS ensuring cross pollination between skills developed whilst on deployment and NHS best practice. Similarly, NHS Reservists bring the crisis management skills they learn on operation back into the NHS.

We also collaborate on and share the results of defence medical research. The NHS works with MOD and other stakeholders to develop the Government's response to major incidents, and share best practice through informal bilateral links and through the MOD and Department of Health Partnership Board and its working groups.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on encouraging its staff to volunteer in each of the last five years; and how much it plans to spend in each of the next five years. [48621]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health has spent £27,625 in 2010-11, so far, on encouraging its staff to volunteer. This cost covered membership fees for "Time & Talent Westminster" and "Leeds Ahead" to support teams and individuals to find volunteering opportunities in London and Leeds where our main offices are located. Prior to 2010 there was no specific budget for this purpose.

For 2011-12, the total cost will be £25,000. A breakdown of cost is provided as follows:

		£
Period	*Leeds Ahead*	*Volunteer Centre Westminster—Time & Talents Westminster*
2010-11	17,625.00	10,000.00
2011-12	15,000.00	10,000.00

Future spend after 2012 is under review, and has yet to be decided upon.

Young People: Alcoholism

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people aged *(a)* 16 to 19 and *(b)* 12 to 15 in each region were alcohol dependent in the latest period for which figures are available. [48521]

Anne Milton: Information on dependency is available from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (APMS), results for which were published in the report "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007" in 2009. This is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/psychiatricmorbidity07

The survey includes information on the prevalence of alcohol use and dependence by age, sex, region and other factors for 2000 and 2007. The survey covered people aged 16 or over living in private households in England. Information on alcohol dependency among those aged 12 to 15 is not available. Due to the small sample sizes, figures for alcohol dependent 16 to 19-year-olds are not available at regional level.

The Department estimates alcohol dependence by reference to a score of 16 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)[1]. In the APMS, it was estimated that 4.7% of 16 to 19-year-olds in England were alcohol dependent in 2007 on the basis of this definition, equating to about 130,000 people.

In the APMS, alcohol dependence was also assessed using the Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ-C), with a score of four or more indicating mild, moderate or severe dependence. This includes cases of mild dependence not requiring any interventions. It was estimated that 9.5% of 16 to 19-year-olds in England scored four or more on this measure in 2007, equating to about 260,000 people.

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[1] AUDIT was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a method of screening for excessive drinking and to help identify alcohol dependence. It consists of 10 questions about recent alcohol use, alcohol dependence symptoms, and alcohol-related problems. This definition is consistent with that used in the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP) published in 2005. ANARP used a cut-off score on the AUDIT of 16 to identify "moderately or severely dependent" drinkers, and with a view to estimating the need for treatment.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 29 March 2011

WALES

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many civil servants in her Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if she will make a statement. [49179]

Mr David Jones: Civil servants in the Wales Office are employees of either the Ministry of Justice or the Welsh Assembly Government. Both these Departments have advertised voluntary early departure schemes to all staff.

SCOTLAND

Aviation

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with travel companies in Scotland on the likely effect on them of the Government's proposed reforms to the Air Travel Organisers Licensing scheme. [49722]

Michael Moore: On 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 56-57WS, the Minister of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), announced the Government's "in principle" decision to reform the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme, with full consultation on the details of the proposed reforms in spring 2011. This will provide an opportunity for Ministers to hear views from travel companies in Scotland and throughout the United Kingdom on the likely effect of proposed reforms.

Human Rights: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Lord Advocate on the compatibility with human rights legislation of the evidence requirements in Scottish criminal law. [49725]

Michael Moore: The Advocate-General for Scotland, my noble and learned Friend, Lord Wallace of Tankerness, has regular discussions with the Lord Advocate on a range of issues, including human rights issues.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Art Works

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many works of art in the Government Art Collection are *(a)* on display and *(b)* in storage. [49756]

Mr Vaizey: The Government Art Collection has 9,161 works of art currently on display. There are 4,444 works of art currently not on display and available for selection and display, of which 405 are awaiting installation at already selected specific venues and 104 are being either restored or reframed.

Arts Council England

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 900W, on Arts Council England: expenditure, on what date he last met the *(a)* Chairman and *(b)* Chief Executive of Arts Council England. [49779]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I last met the Chair and Chief Executive of Arts Council England to discuss funding decisions on 29 March.

Broadband

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the availability of superfast broadband in rural areas; and what timetable has been set for increasing such coverage. [49810]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK has modelled broadband availability across the UK and provided the information to local government under the wave 2 bidding round for broadband funding. The aim is for the UK to have the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Commercials Production Market

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has undertaken any surveys of the composition of the commercials production market. [49382]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) does not hold any data specifically on the composition of the commercials production market, however the DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7634.aspx

does provide estimates of economic contribution, employment, exports and number of businesses across the creative industries, including the advertising sector.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49195]

John Penrose: Since April 2010, 31 officials have been offered voluntary redundancy in the Department.

Olympic Games 2012

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to engage young people from Lancashire in the London 2012 Olympics. [49559]

Hugh Robertson: It is important that children and young people from across the UK are actively encouraged to participate in the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over 17,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games' (LOCOG) education programme Get Set, with 286 schools and colleges registered in Lancashire. LOCOG launched the official London 2012 mascots last year, which are now inspiring children and young people. LOCOG hosted a 'Get Set to make your mascot' school competition. The winning primary and secondary schools win a visit from Wenlock or Mandeville in the summer term—ideally to their school sports day.

Over 1,100 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark, with 143 of these in the north-west, such as Supporter to Reporter (S2R). S2R gives young people sports reporting opportunities at national and local events. Participants receive training to produce audio, video, text and image reports with content then published on the youth-led website.

Young ambassadors is a London 2012 programme managed by Youth Sport Trust which has been running in England, Scotland and Wales; it was the first initiative to receive the London 2012 Inspire mark for education. It involves young people being recruited to be ambassadors, working in their schools and communities to champion sport and the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The School Games will give every school the opportunity to get involved. Sport England has commissioned the Youth Sport Trust to test how to deliver School Games in nine pilot areas. In June or July 2011, these sites will host the first 'School Games' Days in 500 schools and the first nine 'Festivals of Sport'. All schools will be given the opportunity to participate from September 2011 with the first national finals taking place in the Olympic Stadium in May 2012.

In addition, I announced the 'Places People Play' programme, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further detail can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

Olympic Games 2012: Diamond Jubilee 2012

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to integrate events to mark the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen with events to mark the London 2012 Olympics. [49607]

Hugh Robertson: Celebrations to mark Her Majesty's diamond jubilee will centre around the jubilee weekend in June. We expect diamond jubilee events to take place throughout the year. There will undoubtedly be opportunities for communities to link these with events to mark the Olympics if they wish.

Sports: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial support his Department provides for non-facility-owning sports clubs. [49132]

Hugh Robertson: Facility ownership is not a criterion for the receipt of financial support from Sport England. There are a number of programmes non-facility owning clubs can apply for, including coaching programmes, sports equipment and support for expansion of the club. In addition, Sport England will be launching two new programmes shortly that actively encourage clubs to work with other local providers to investigate asset transfer opportunities, so that those clubs may become facility-owners themselves.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to simplify the provision of information to sports clubs on making grant applications. [49133]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England is committed to improving the accessibility of its funding programmes, not only to sports clubs but the wider voluntary sector.

Sport England has recently made a number of changes to some of its application forms and will continue to make information clearer wherever possible.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cycle to Work Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, when the House of Commons Commission expects employees of the House of Commons Service to be able to participate in the Cycle to Work scheme. [49405]

John Thurso: Work has begun and implementation is expected to be during the financial year 2011-12.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Human Rights

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on Afghan human rights activist Malalai Joya. [49126]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not discussed Malalai Joya with his US counterpart. Malalai Joya visited the UK in October 2008 to discuss human rights with UK Government officials. We continue to remind the Afghan Government to uphold its commitments to protect the human rights of all Afghans.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the role of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Hercegovina. [49136]

Mr Lidington: We continue to give our full support to the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the High Representative/EU Special Representative Valentin Inzko. The High Representative has a key role as the final authority in theatre for interpreting the General Framework Agreement for Peace (the 'Dayton' Agreement) in respect of civilian implementation of the peace settlement. We support the principle that OHR should transition to an EU-only presence once the conditionality necessary for OHR closure has been met.

Egypt: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals who have left Egypt in 2011 on flights organised by other governments. [48940]

Alistair Burt: We have co-operated closely with EU and other partners to facilitate the departure of British nationals from Egypt. We do not have an accurate estimate of the number of British nationals that have left Egypt on flights organised by other governments.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs his Department has incurred on chartering aircraft to Egypt in 2011. [48945]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my response to him of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 714W.

Indonesia: Overseas Investment

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* outcome was of his Department's meeting with Governor Suebu of Papua at Wilton Park in May 2010. [49114]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Governor Suebu was invited to participate in a Wilton Park conference entitled "Indonesia: What role as a contemporary global actor?" on 1-4 March 2010. He was the key speaker at a session on the transition to a low carbon economy in Indonesia. During the session he presented Papua province's own plans for its own low carbon development, which could save up to 1 Gigatonne of carbon emissions. Following his presentation, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials held further conversations with Governor Suebu related to that topic. Since the conference, our embassy in Jakarta has continued to work closely with Papuan officials to develop sustainable macroeconomic land use models for the whole province of Papua. This work is ongoing.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 711W, on West Papua: overseas investment, what contact the UK Ambassador to Indonesia has had with the government of Indonesia on the effects of the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estates projects on sustainable land use and local communities in West Papua since 2 November 2010. [49320]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our embassy in Jakarta is working closely with Papuan officials to develop sustainable macroeconomic land use models for the whole province of Papua, including Merauke. We have raised the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estates (MIFEE) project in that context. Our ambassador also raised these issues with the Government of Indonesia and Papuan political leaders and local government officials in November 2010 ahead of and during a visit to Papua province. We will continue to encourage sustainable land use planning that recognises the importance of local communities in Papua province.

Japan: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals who have left Japan since the tsunami on flights organised by other governments. [48934]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Commercial flights and flights organised by other governments have been operating since the tsunami. We have cooperated closely with EU and other partners to ensure that British nationals have been given access to seats where they exist. However, it is difficult to estimate the number of British nationals who have taken up this option.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs his Department has incurred in chartering aircraft to Japan following the tsunami. [48939]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office secured seats on four flights to Hong Kong for British nationals who were unable to book tickets on commercial flights out of Japan. Given the scale of the unfolding crisis and the unpredictability of demand, this was a sensible precautionary measure to ensure that all British nationals and their families who wished to leave Japan immediately were able to do so.

981 seats were made available to British nationals on four flights. The approximate cost was £781,500.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have used recent flights organised by his Department from Japan. [48944]

Mr Jeremy Browne: 64 seats were taken up by British nationals. 15 seats were taken up by non British nationals; all of these were dependants of British nationals.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on charging *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals who used recent flights chartered by his Department from Japan. [48951]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There was no charge for these flights for British nationals and their dependants who were directly affected by the earthquake and/or tsunami. For British nationals and their dependants who were not directly affected by the earthquake and/or tsunami but wanted to leave Japan and all non-British nationals, there was a charge of £600 per adult, £300 per two-16 year old, and no charge for those passengers under two years of age. This is comparable to commercial flight options.

Japan: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals resident in Japan have contacted his Department in the last seven days. [47389]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As at 27 March 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had received over 9,000 calls to our missing persons helpline. This figure includes calls from UK residents in Japan. It is not possible to break down where all the callers were located.

In addition to this, our embassy in Tokyo, reinforced with additional consular staff, has been in close contact with UK nationals from the areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami and others resident elsewhere in Japan.

Japan: Diplomatic Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether additional financial resources have been allocated to the British Embassy in Japan following the earthquake in that country. [47805]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office deployed over 50 specialist consular, crisis and Japanese speaking staff to Japan following the earthquake and tsunami to provide consular assistance and help locate British nationals.

The additional staff reinforced our embassy in Tokyo, including teams at Narita and Haneda international airports. The deployment also included a team of 15 in Sendai and a team of six in Morioka, both in north east Japan to establish 24-hour consular response centres in each place.

Sufficient resources will continue to be made available to respond appropriately to developments.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have been evacuated from Libya on Royal Navy ships to date. [43887]

Alistair Burt: In total, four voyages were made to Libya by HMS Cumberland and HMS York evacuating a total of 139 British and 354 non-British nationals.

Libya: Diplomatic Relations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department *(a)* sought and *(b)* received legal advice before authorising the diplomatic mission to eastern Libya. [49501]

Alistair Burt: *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* Legal advice is routinely obtained on important matters involving international relations.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what *(a)* date and *(b)* time the decision was made to convene the COBR meeting which took place on 24 February 2011 at 10.00 am. [48337]

Mr Hague: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1150W.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency plans the Government has proposed in the event that escalation of violence in Libya merits international intervention. [44677]

Alistair Burt: The regime's crackdown against protestors' legitimate calls for reform has been totally unacceptable. Our interest throughout has been to protect civilians (both our own nationals and Libyans caught up in the violence) and prevent further bloodshed. UN Security Council resolution 1973 is designed to safeguard Libya's civilian population from human rights abuses carried out by the Libyan forces. After its adoption, the UK made clear that if Colonel Gaddafi did not comply with this resolution, it would be enforced through military action. Colonel Gaddafi's forces continued to advance on Benghazi and kill civilians. Our armed forces have therefore participated in a co-ordinated international coalition strike against key military installations.

Rescue Services

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issues to posts overseas on procedures to follow to authorise entry to a country for UK rescue teams which represent a registered charity. [48897]

Mr Jeremy Browne *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* Deployment of rescue teams is dealt with on a case by case basis, in line with the requirements of the host country.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his counterpart in Yemen the actions of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the need to avoid disorder and violence in the region. [49386]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have been deeply concerned by events in Yemen since demonstrations began in mid-January. I have been shocked by the heavy-handedness of the Yemeni security forces, in particular the use of live fire to control demonstrators. In several public statements the Secretary of State and I have encouraged the Government of Yemen to respect the right to peaceful protest and urgently acknowledge the legitimate concerns of protestors. I have also raised my concern directly with the Yemeni Foreign Minister.

The Government continue to urge all parties in Yemen to conduct constructive political dialogue to establish orderly and peaceful transition. Only through an inclusive and democratic process will stability be established. I am awaiting the outcome of ongoing dialogue, and I hope this will entail agreement to proposals for early parliamentary elections, constitutional changes, a referendum on electoral reform and decentralisation.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his counterpart in Yemen on the treatment of anti-government protestors on 18 March 2011. [49518]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have been deeply concerned by events in Yemen since demonstrations began in mid-January. I have been shocked by the heavy-handedness of the Yemeni security forces, in particular the use of live fire to control demonstrators. In a number of public statements the Secretary of State and I have urged the Government of Yemen to respect the right to peaceful protest and to urgently acknowledge the legitimate concerns of protestors. In a press statement on 18 March 2011 the Secretary of State condemned the violence in Sana'a, called for those responsible to be brought to justice and stressed the Yemeni Government's obligations to uphold the rule of law and its international human rights commitments. I too was appalled by the unacceptable levels of violence in Sana'a and raised my concern directly with the Yemeni Foreign Minister. The Government continue to emphasise to the Government of Yemen the importance of dialogue and the need to avoid undermining ongoing efforts to establish peace and stability.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Dogs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many dogs have been engaged by each of the armed services in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* Iraq, *(d)* Germany and *(e)* other overseas locations in each of the last five years; what roles such dogs fulfil; and if he will make a statement. [49869]

Nick Harvey: The number of military working dogs (MWD) in each location fluctuates throughout the year. They are moved between locations to meet the specific needs of the armed forces, such as support to operations and standing commitments. This also ensures that each dog continues to be employed in both the best possible MWD team (handler and dog) combination and environment for each dog's welfare and veterinary needs.

Information can therefore only be presented as a snapshot in time. As at 28 March 2011, the Army had a total of 229 trained dogs and 138 dogs currently being trained across 17 different locations within the UK and overseas. The Royal Air Force had a total of 212 trained and five being trained across 21 different locations within the UK and overseas. The Royal Navy have no MWDs.

MWDs fall broadly into two categories: protection and detection. Protection dogs are trained to guard. Detection dogs are trained to search for items and substances (such as drugs, arms, ammunition and explosives) and can also be trained to track or detect human scent.

I am withholding specific detail on the numbers of MWDs in operational theatres as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many dogs engaged by each armed service have been retired from service in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what provision was made for each such dog after leaving service; [49870]

(2) what his policy is on the treatment of dogs no longer required in service by the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [49871]

Peter Luff: The number of armed forces military working dogs (MWD) that retired from service over the past five years is provided in the following table:

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Royal Navy	0	0	0	0	0
Army	8	11	5	20	35
RAF	8	15	9	1	14

These figures are based upon the last site at which the dog served as retirement records do not show which service they were with. The figures do not include dogs within the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and other guarding organisations. The general principle followed for MWD in service is that without compromise to their health and welfare, the effective working life of all Ministry of Defence (MOD) dogs should be maximised. When a dog reaches the end of its working life the aim is to re-home it with a member of the general public. Primary consideration is given to what is best for the dog and public safety. Following an examination by a veterinarian to document current health status, all routine veterinary treatment is provided prior to leaving service, so that the dog moves to its new home in the best veterinary state. Once re-homed, the dogs are the responsibility of their new owner and no further provision is made for them by the MOD. Dogs are put down only as a last resort.

Departmental Land

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what area of land in *(a)* public and *(b)* private ownership his Department uses for military purposes in (i) Wales, (ii) England and (iii) Scotland. [49868]

Peter Luff: The details of public land in Wales, England and Scotland, and private land in England and Scotland used for military purposes are published in the UK Defence Statistics 2010, chapter six, and can be found at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2010/c6/intro.php

A copy of chapter six has been placed in the Library of the House.

The table contains the majority of the private land used for military training purposes, except where this is negotiated locally. It does not include such land in Wales, where some 503,000 hectares is used for military purposes annually.

HMS Cumberland and HMS Cornwall

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits by foreign civil and military dignitaries have been hosted by *(a)* HMS Cumberland and *(b)* HMS Cornwall in their current deployment. [48924]

Nick Harvey: As at 22 March 2011 the foreign civil and military dignitaries hosted by HMS Cumberland and HMS Cornwall during their current deployments are as follows:

HMS Cumberland

	Event	*Foreign guests*
20 October 2010	Official reception on behalf of British consul—Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Vice chairman of a manufacturing company, a local businessman and a senior legal adviser
22 November 2010	Formal lunch for defence attachés only during HM Queen state visit to UAE	Defence attachés of Netherlands, Australia, United States, France and Germany
9 December 2010	Initial entry into Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) UAE	Head of customs and ports and entourage
	Formal lunch	Ruler of RAK, Crown Prince of RAK and three other senior dignitaries from RAK

HMS Cornwall

	Event	*Foreign guests*
2 November 2010	Defence diplomacy reception	Diplomatic and military dignitaries from Algeria, France, Egypt, Tunisia and Russia
3 November 2010	Lunch for members of Algerian military attended by HM ambassador and UK defence attaché	Four senior Algerian officers
29 November 2010	Change of command ceremony from Turkish to Pakistani for combined task group (CTF)151—HMS Cornwall acting as flagship	Turkish and Pakistani military dignitaries. Pakistani commander and staff have remained onboard as command platform
19 December 2010	Counter piracy meeting	Spanish commander of command task group 465 (Op Atalanta)
24 January 2011	Presentation on piracy by commander CTF 151 and CO HMS Cornwall	Japanese anti-piracy task force commander and two Japanese commanding officers.
25-27 February 2011	Preparation for handover of command of CTF 151	Senior Singaporean naval officer and delegation onboard for three days in advance of command handover

Merville Barracks

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what provision was made in the design of Merville Barracks, Colchester to allow for the construction of additional blocks of single person accommodation; and if he will make a statement; [49574]

(2) how much additional single accommodation would be required at Merville Barracks, Colchester to accommodate all those currently living in private sector housing rented by his Department. [49629]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* As at 25 February 2011, a further 559 bedspaces would be required at Merville Barracks, Colchester in order to accommodate all those currently living in private sector housing (substitute single service accommodation).

The Colchester private finance initiative master plan included space for eight additional junior ranks single living accommodation (SLA) blocks; however, during construction, it was decided to increase the number of SLA blocks being constructed by four, giving a total of a further 276 bedspaces. There remain a further four sites available for development.

TREASURY

Commodity Markets

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has held with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the effect on economic forecasting of the operation of food and agricultural commodity markets. [49165]

Justine Greening: The Treasury maintains regular contact with the OECD on a wide range of economic matters.

Debts: Developing Countries

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 471W, on debts: developing countries, what criteria he plans to use to determine whether to extend the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. [49177]

Mr Hoban: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and the Act came into force on 8 June 2010. The legislation means that UK courts of law can no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty.

The sunset clause attached to this legislation means that the law will expire on 7 June 2011. The Government have reviewed the impact of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. Evidence suggests that the Act has had some benefit on heavily indebted poor countries and no evidence has been found of unintended adverse effects.

The Government have therefore decided to make the Act permanent. Full details will be provided in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the draft Order, which will be laid before Parliament shortly.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49186]

Justine Greening: Within HM Treasury, voluntary redundancy applies when a group or team is restructured or when work ceases to exist and staff are in a displaced situation. Staff may be offered voluntary redundancy if they are not redeployed within HM Treasury or another Government Department.

No staff have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010.

Devolution

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he plans to allocate to *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Executive in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14, (iv) 2014-15 and (v) 2015-16 as a result of the measures announced in the 2011 Budget. [49861]

Danny Alexander: The departmental expenditure limit increases in the budgets of the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive for the next five years are respectively:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
SG	58	23	1	6	1
WAG	33	13	4	3	4
NIE	20	8	2	2	2

Motability

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward fiscal measures to support the *(a)* operating costs and *(b)* fuel costs of cars under the Motability scheme. [49072]

Justine Greening: The £1.9 billion Budget 2011 package offers support to all motorists including the drivers of cars operated under the independent Motability scheme.

Budget 2011 abolishes the previous Administration's fuel duty escalator and replaces it with a fair fuel stabiliser, cuts fuel duty by 1p per litre and defers the 2011-12 inflation-only increase to January 2012.

Public Expenditure

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford of 15 July 1999, *Official Report*, columns 328-30W, on the Treasury, if he will use the method applied to the production of that answer to estimate *(a)* the likely effect of the June 2010 Budget and *(b)* the likely effects of the measures in the June 2010 Budget and the Comprehensive Spending Review on the income of (i) men and (ii) women. [47175]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 March 2011]*: The Budget is an overall statement of economic policy, containing a whole range of measures, from consultations to tax changes. We cannot make a robust assessment of the overall impact of the Budget on specific groups.

The tax and benefit system is complex—there are many interactions between benefits and taxes. A reduction in benefit paid to one member of a household may be offset by an increase to another.

Sharing of resources within the household will mean that although a benefit is received by a particular person in the household, the full impact does not fall on that person. Taking account of how income is shared within households is very difficult, as data and research in this area are sparse.

Instead, Departments consider the equality impact of their policies as they are developed and implemented. See for instance the Welfare Reform Bill 2011 Equality Impact Assessments published by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Throughout the spending review process, HM Treasury has looked closely at the impact that decisions may have on different groups in society and published an "Overview of the Equalities Impacts of the Spending Review" on 20 October alongside the spending review announcements.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which measures in Budget 2011 consequential allocations through the Barnett formula are to be made to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [49860]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor's Budget announced on 23 March 2011, included Barnett consequentials in respect of spending on apprenticeships, university technical colleges, FirstBuy housing programme, Enterprise Zones rate relief, small business rates relief, and local government capitalisation. In addition in Northern Ireland there were consequentials in respect of changes in DWP spending.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he plans to allocate to the Scottish Executive under the Barnett formula in respect of each item from which consequential allocations arise in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15 and *(e)* 2015-16. [49862]

Danny Alexander: The spending review provided:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2015-16*
Resource	24,794	25,100	25,310	25,419
Capital	2,507	2,475	2,237	2,318

The Budget provided the following additional amounts of:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2015-16*
Resource	25	23	7	6
Capital	33	0	0	0

It is for the Scottish Government to allocate its funding as it sees fit to local needs and priorities.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what years the Scottish Executive will be able to claim the sums underspent in previous years identified in the 2011 Budget; and whether any restrictions are to apply to the use of such sums. [49863]

Danny Alexander: The Government cancelled the previous EYF system abolishing existing stocks. In 2010-11 the Government allowed the Scottish Government to drawdown £296 million of end year flexibility. The Scottish Government have also been allowed to carry forward £130 million planned under-spend from 2010-11 to 2011-12.

This arrangement is unique to the devolved administrations and is not available to UK Government Departments.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 299-300, on law-making powers in Wales, what the statistical basis is for the forecast difference in spending. [49399]

Danny Alexander: Public spending per head in Wales was 12% higher than in England in 2009-10. In the spending review the Government announced that the Welsh Assembly Government's resource departmental expenditure limit budget will reduce by 7.5% in real terms by 2014-15 compared to a reduction of 8.3% across the UK.

Tax Avoidance

Chris Bryant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an estimate of *(a)* the number of British-based companies which use tax avoidance schemes in Jersey and *(b)* the amount of taxation avoided through use of such schemes per year; [49780]

(2) if he will take steps to restrict the ability of British-based companies to use tax avoidance schemes based in the Channel Islands. [49775]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made of the number of British-based companies which use tax avoidance schemes in Jersey. HMRC's estimates do not distinguish according to the different jurisdictions through which a scheme or arrangement may operate.

This Government are tackling avoidance and at Budget we set out our plan to implement a new strategic approach to tackling avoidance including HMRC's new anti-avoidance strategy and action to strengthen tax legislation.

The Budget also announced a range of specific measures to tackle avoidance, including a reduction in the VAT-free threshold for goods imported from outside the EU from £18 to £15. A commitment was also given at Budget to explore options with the European Commission to limit the scope of the relief.

This will reduce the attraction for UK businesses to locate outside the EU.

Tax Credit: Video Games

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the effects of tax credit changes in the 2011 Budget on the video games industry. [49724]

Mr Gauke: The Budget announced reforms to the research and development (R&D) tax credit schemes, including an increase in the rate of SME R&D tax relief to 200% from April 2011, and then an increase to 225% from April 2012.

These changes will benefit innovative companies undertaking qualifying R&D activity in all sectors of the economy, including the video games industry.

Taxation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential costs to the public purse of merging income tax and national insurance. [49285]

Mr Gauke: The Government believe that integrating the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions (NICs) can remove distortions, reduce burdens on business and improve fairness. However, it recognises that any change will be complex and involve a wide range of policy and implementation issues.

The Government will publish an initial consultation document later this year to consult on the options, stages and timing of reform.

Taxation: Coastal Areas

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from arcades in seaside locations on the likely effects of the introduction of a machine gaming duty to replace the amusement machine licence duty and value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [49840]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Taxation: Pensioners

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the taxation of employer-financed retirement benefit schemes. [49268]

Mr Gauke: New and extensive use of employer financed retirement benefit schemes (EFRBS) to provide retirement benefits would create significant risk around the yield projected from the restriction of pensions' tax relief that is due to take effect from the 2011-12 tax year onwards. This would not be in keeping with the principle of creating a more affordable pensions tax regime. The Government are therefore introducing legislation in the Finance Bill 2011 to ensure that EFRBS are not more tax advantaged than for pension savings into registered pension schemes beyond the annual and lifetime allowances.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue that would accrue to the Exchequer if contributions to employer-financed retirement benefit schemes were subject to taxation at the rate of 50 per cent. in each of the next four years. [49269]

Mr Gauke: It is estimated that a 50% tax charge on contributions to employer financed retirement benefit schemes (EFRBS) would yield around £40 million per year.

At Budget 2011, a measure was introduced to prevent tax avoidance through 'disguised remuneration', which includes the use of EFRBS. It will work by subjecting earmarking by EFRBS of sums and assets paid to them as contributions to tax and national insurance in the same way as cash remuneration. Importantly, the measure is expected to protect future tax revenues, by closing off opportunities to avoid restrictions to tax relief on pension contributions to registered pension schemes through the use of EFRBS.

Further information on how the Exchequer yield was estimated for the disguised remuneration measure, including estimates of current losses and behavioural responses, can be found in the Budget 2011 policy costings document (page 46) at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Treasury Select Committee: Revenue and Customs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the job title is of each member of staff of HM Revenue and Customs who attended the meeting of the Treasury Committee on 16 March 2011 other than as witnesses. [49424]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not have a record of the staff who attended the hearing.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether staff of HM Revenue and Customs are entitled to claim overtime for attendance at Treasury Select Committee hearings after 5.30pm. [49425]

Mr Gauke: HMRC staff are not entitled to claim overtime for attendance at Treasury Select Committee hearings.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much time in staff hours HM Revenue and Customs spent in preparing for Treasury Select Committee hearings in the latest period for which figures are available. [49541]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not have a record of this information.

Urenco

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what arrangements he plans to make for the sale of the UK shareholding in Urenco; what estimate he has made of the potential proceeds from the sale; by what date he plans to issue a prospectus; and if he will make a statement; [49612]

(2) whether any *(a)* individual, *(b)* organisation and *(c)* state will not be invited to purchase those shares in Urenco held by the UK; [49614]

(3) what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have held with trade unions representing UK nationals employed by Urenco; and what steps have been taken to inform UK-based employees of Urenco of the decision to sell the UK's shareholding; [49615]

(4) what account he has taken of the review of the UK nuclear energy programme in assessing the potential market for shares in Urenco. [49616]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are currently undertaking a full analysis of their options with regard to the UK's stake in Urenco and no final decisions have yet been made.

The Government do not give out information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales. To do so would prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, any change in the present ownership arrangements will be subject to securing value for money for the tax payer as well as meeting non-proliferation and other policy objectives.

The UK remains fully committed to upholding nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security principles. Should we decide to proceed with a sale, any restrictions on potential purchasers of shares in the company would be dependent on our assessment of the risk posed to our non-proliferation and other policy interests.

Neither Ministers or officials have had any discussions with the UK-based employees of Urenco or their trade union representatives on the implications of a potential sale. Any such discussions would be premature at this stage and would in any case be for the company's management to undertake.

Urenco provides enrichment services to civil nuclear utilities worldwide and the provision to customers in the UK represents only a very small proportion of its business. The Government's review of the UK's nuclear strategy is expected to have little, if any, impact on Urenco's business.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: East of England

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid to each local authority in the East of England in respect of asylum seeker support in each year since 1997. [49140]

Damian Green: Payments to local authorities in the East of England in respect of asylum seeker support for the financial year between 2002-03 and 2009-10 are given in the following table. Data for previous years are not available at the required level of analysis and it would incur disproportionate cost to provide the information for the years before 2002-03.

Payments to local authorities in the East of England

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bedfordshire County Council	1,309.5	749.5	201.5	251.7	338.5	616.9	966.1	1,143.8
Cambridgeshire County Council	1,350.0	922.1	652.2	1,067.7	1,121.3	988.2	2,254.5	1,696.5
Essex County Council	1,815.2	1,980.1	1,272.2	1,760.4	1,530.2	1,319.5	1,685.5	1,325.6
Hertfordshire County Council	3,654.2	2,470.6	1,994.7	1,048.4	966.3	1,061.4	1,376.6	2,667.3
Luton Borough Council	3,341.3	3,256.2	2,242.8	1,265.6	332.6	494.1	388.9	276.5
Norfolk County Council	929.8	946.2	413.2	650.3	399.0	409.8	397.9	617.6
Peterborough City Council	933.9	860.2	28.6	427.0	157.2	131.5	90.4	91.1
Southend on Sea Borough Council	2,035.2	1,776.7	906.2	534.3	274.7	191.1	120.4	125.1
Suffolk County Council	357.1	347.1	236.6	268.3	177.2	444.6	1,240.7	1,395.1
Thurrock Council	3,175.5	3,018.7	1,809.4	934.9	511.6	464.8	793.2	733.1
Total	18,901.7	16,327.4	9,757.4	8,208.6	5,808.6	6,121.9	9,314.2	10,071.7

Note:

These figures include payments to local authorities in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. They have been taken from the audited accounts of the Home Office (or the UK Border Agency from 2009-10).

Asylum: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to *(a)* the Refugee Council, *(b)* the Scottish Refugee Council, *(c)* the Welsh Refugee Council, *(d)* Refugee Action and *(e)* Migrant Helpline in each of the last five years. [48859]

Damian Green: The amount paid to these organisations is detailed in the following table.

Funding to voluntary sector bodies 2005-10

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Refugee Council	16.8	14.3	10.7	11.2	13.7
Scottish Refugee Council	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.2
Welsh Refugee Council	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.7
Refugee Action	12.2	5.7	4.6	4.6	5.7
Migrant Helpline	20.6	13.1	9.7	2.7	1.8

Note:

These figures are taken from the audited accounts of the Home Office or (for 2009-10 only) of the UK Border Agency.

Asylum: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers living in Greater London *(a)* returned voluntarily and *(b)* were deported to their country of origin in each of the last five years. [49080]

Damian Green: The data you have requested are shown in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Failed asylum seekers, excluding dependants, residing in the Government Office London area, returned to their country of origin, 2006-10

	(a) Voluntary departure	*(b) Enforced removal*	*Total*
2006	2,113	2,662	4,775
2007	2,039	1,751	3,790
2008	1,951	1,435	3,386
2009	1,503	1,382	2,885
2010	1,427	1,469	2,896
Total	9,033	8,699	17,732

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Birds of Prey: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of illegal killing of birds of prey have been investigated by the police in each of the last five years. [49555]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not collect information on police investigations.

In addition, offences of illegally killing birds of prey are summary offences and are not included in the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of passenger name record data her Department expects to capture from passenger movements by December 2013. [49388]

Damian Green: We are currently collecting passenger name record (PNR) data for 11.4% of total air passenger movements.

No timescales have yet been decided for increasing the volume of PNR data being collected and there are no targets specifically for collection by December 2013.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in her Department are participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. [49410]

Damian Green: The Home Office Cycle to Work scheme was launched in Home Office HQ and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) on 9 October 2009; in the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) on 1 April 2010; and in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) on 19 April 2010.

Since implementation a total of 413 staff have signed up to the scheme, comprising:

From Home Office HQ and UKBA—326

From IPS—70

From CRB—17.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women who applied for indefinite leave to remain as a result of alleged domestic violence had their applications refused in the latest period for which figures are available; what the grounds were for such refusals; and if she will make a statement. [49748]

Damian Green: Figures for the latest period, January 2011, show that 101 people (not gender specific) applied for indefinite leave to remain as a result of alleged domestic violence and of these cases 95 have been decided. 12 of those considered were refusals, nine cases were refused on the basis that it was not accepted that domestic violence had taken place and three cases were refused on other grounds[1].

[1] The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of applications for indefinite leave to remain made by women accepted on to the Sojourner Project are determined within the 20-day limit; and if she will make a statement. [49749]

Damian Green: Figures[1] for the latest period, January 2011, indicate that 49% of applications for indefinite leave to remain as a victim of domestic abuse were made by applicants accepted on to the Sojourner Project. Of these applications 80% were determined within the 20 day target.

[1] The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Drugs: Working Hours

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of working days lost due to the effects of hard drug usage in each of the last five years. [48619]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not currently record this information and no estimates have been made.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on measures to make illegal the *(a)* distribution and *(b)* sale of legal highs which are harmful to human health. [49529]

James Brokenshire: The Government take the issue of synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (so called 'legal highs') very seriously.

On 23 July 2010, naphyrone became a controlled class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. 2-DPMP, a psychoactive ingredient found in samples of some 'Ivory Wave' branded products, was banned under the Open General Import Licence on 4 November 2010.

On 30 November 2010, we introduced legislative proposals in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 with provisions for temporary banning powers on new 'legal highs'. Our proposals aim to protect the public from the harms of these drugs; enable law enforcement partners to target suppliers and manufacturers; give the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) the time to provide full advice, and send a clear public health message about the harms of these drugs.

On 1 January 2011, the Home Office launched a three-month pilot to explore improvements to the current forensic early warning system for identifying new and emerging drugs. As part of this pilot, we are introducing new forensic technology at the borders to support UK Border Agency with the identification of any new drug being imported into the UK.

On 2 February, I wrote to the ACMD to set out the Government's priorities for 2011-12. These include requesting the ACMD's advice on our future direction in tackling supply, markets and demand with a view to protecting the public. This letter is published at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/response-acmd-mdma-ecstasy?view=Standard&pubID=857089

Entry Clearances

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries in Europe nationals require a visa to enter the UK. [49553]

Damian Green: All nationalities, except European economic area (EEA) nationalities require a visa to work or study in the UK.

All EEA nationals (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are entitled to free movement and do not require visas or other permission to enter, work or study in the UK.

Nationals from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia all require a visa to enter the UK. For further information please see the following link:

http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to ask the Migration Advisory Committee to conduct an assessment of the potential effects on the economy of her proposed reforms to the student immigration route. [49006]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department announced the Government's plans to reform the student immigration system on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 855-72. We have no plans to ask the Migration Advisory Committee to assess the potential effects on the economy. An impact assessment will be published in due course.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, on student visas, what her definition is of a graduate-level job; and if she will make a statement. [49292]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The independent Migration Advisory Committee recommended a list of graduate-level occupations, which has been accepted by the Government. The list is as follows:

Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code	*Occupation*
1111	Senior officials in national government
1112	Directors and chief executives of major organisations
1113	Senior officials in local government
1114	Senior officials of special interest organisations
1121	Production, works and maintenance managers
122	Managers in construction
1123	Managers in mining and energy
1131	Financial managers and chartered secretaries
1132	Marketing and sales managers
1133	Purchasing managers
1134	Advertising and public relations managers
1135	Personnel, training and industrial relations managers
1136	Information and communication technology managers
1137	Research and development managers
1141	Quality assurance managers
1142	Customer care managers
1151	Financial institution managers
1152	Office managers
1161	Transport and distribution managers
1171	Officers in armed forces
1172	Police officers (inspectors and above)
1173	Senior officers in fire, ambulance, prison and related services
1174	Security managers
1181	Hospital and health service managers
1182	Pharmacy managers
1183	Healthcare practice managers
1184	Social services managers
1185	Residential and day care managers
1212	Natural environment and conservation managers
1219	Managers in animal husbandry, forestry and fishing not elsewhere classified
1222	Conference and exhibition managers
1231	Property, housing and land managers
1235	Recycling and refuse disposal managers
1239	Managers and proprietors in other services not elsewhere classified
2111	Chemists
2112	Biological scientists and biochemists
2113	Physicists, geologists and meteorologists
2121	Civil engineers
2122	Mechanical engineers
2123	Electrical engineers
2124	Electronics engineers
2125	Chemical engineers
2126	Design and development engineers
2127	Production and process engineers
2128	Planning and quality control engineers
2129	Engineering professionals not elsewhere classified
2131	IT strategy and planning professionals
2132	Software professionals
2211	Medical practitioners
2212	Psychologists
2213	Pharmacists/pharmacologists
2214	Ophthalmic opticians
2215	Dental practitioners
2216	Veterinarians
2311	Higher education teaching professionals
2312	Further education teaching professionals
2313	Education officers, school inspectors
2314	Secondary education teaching professionals
2315	Primary and nursery education teaching professionals
2316	Special needs education teaching professionals
2317	Registrars and senior administrators of educational establishments
2319	Teaching professionals not elsewhere classified
2321	Scientific researchers
2322	Social science researchers
2329	Researchers not elsewhere classified
2411	Solicitors and lawyers, judges and coroners
2419	Legal professionals not elsewhere classified
2421	Chartered and certified accountants
2422	Management accountants
2423	Management consultants, actuaries, economists and statisticians
2431	Architects
2432	Town planners
2433	Quantity surveyors
2434	Chartered surveyors (not quantity surveyors)
2441	Public service administrative professionals
2442	Social workers
2443	Probation officers
2444	Clergy
2451	Librarians
2452	Archivists and curators
3121	Architectural technologists and town planning technicians
3123	Building inspectors
3131	IT operations technicians
3211	Nurses
3212	Midwives
3213	Paramedics
3214	Medical radiographers
3215	Chiropodists
3218	Medical and dental technicians
3221	Physiotherapists
3222	Occupational therapists
3223	Speech and language therapists
3229	Therapists not elsewhere classified
3319	Protective service associate professionals not elsewhere classified
3411	Artists
3412	Authors, writers
3413	Actors, entertainers
3414	Dancers and choreographers
3415	Musicians
3416	Arts officers, producers and directors
3422	Product, clothing and related designers
3431	Journalists, newspaper and periodical editors
3432	Broadcasting associate professionals

3433 Public relations officers
3512 Aircraft pilots and flight engineers
3513 Ship and hovercraft officers
3531 Estimators, valuers and assessors
3532 Brokers
3534 Finance and investment analysts/advisers
3535 Taxation experts
3537 Financial and accounting technicians
3539 Business and related associate professionals not elsewhere classified
3541 Buyers and purchasing officers
3543 Marketing associate professionals
3551 Conservation and environmental protection officers
3561 Public service associate professionals
3564 Careers advisers and vocational guidance specialists
3565 Inspectors of factories, utilities and trading standards
3566 Statutory examiners
3567 Occupational hygienists and safety officers (health and safety)
3568 Environmental health officers

This list is published in a Statement of Intent on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/soi-tier2/

Human Trafficking: EU Law

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations she has received in support of the UK opting into the European directive on human trafficking. [47840]

Damian Green: The Government have received several hundred representations on whether it should apply to opt in to the EU directive on human trafficking.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce a decision on the implementation of the EU Directive on human trafficking. [49273]

Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt in to the European Directive on human trafficking at the outset, but to review its position in line with the revised text. That process is now complete and I have written to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees notifying them of our intention to apply to opt in.

A final decision remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

Immigration Controls

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what method her Department used to calculate the immigration cap figure of 21,700. [48793]

Damian Green *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* The Migration Advisory Committee recommended an upper annual limit of 43,700, including intra-company transfers (ICTs). The Government have exempted ICTs from the annual limit, and has therefore subtracted the number of ICT visas in 2009 (22,000) from the Committee's recommended figure.

Knives: Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of knife crime offences in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [47677]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has collected data on selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument via a special additional data collection since April 2007. Data are collected for the following offence categories: attempted murder, threats to kill, actual bodily harm (ABH) and grievous bodily harm (GBH), robbery, rape and sexual assaults. The collection does not include data on whether or not an injury was sustained, though the ABH and GBH categories may be of most relevance to the question.

The data for ABH and GBH offences involving a knife or a sharp instrument for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are provided in table A. These data were published in tables 7.13 and 7.14 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2009/10' via the following link:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210chap7.xls

Data for 2007-08 are not comparable to those for subsequent years for a number of reasons. Firstly, in 2007-08, the offences that were included in the knife and sharp instrument collection were: attempted murder, GBH with intent, GBH without intent and robbery. In 2008-09, this was expanded to also include: threats to kill, ABH, sexual assault and rape.

Secondly, there was a clarification in the counting rules for GBH with intent between 2007-08 and 2008-09. Some forces were classifying on injury sustained rather than intent. However, this does not affect the totals presented in the answer, as both GBH with intent and GBH without intent are included in both years.

Finally, a 2009 audit of how bottle and glass offences are recorded in the knife and sharp instrument data collection identified that some forces were including unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this collection. The offence most affected was ABH. Some forces resubmitted data for 2008-09 and these revised figures are included in the answer. However, four forces were unable to provide figures that separate out the unbroken bottle and glass offences, and a number of unbroken bottle and glass offences are included.

Revised data were not requested for 2007-08, as ABH was not collected for this time period. Robbery and attempted murder offences are rarely carried out with unbroken bottles, so are largely unaffected.

Data for 2007-08 are provided in table B and are also available in table 7.11 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09' via the following link:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap7new.xls

Data for homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument are collected via the Homicide Index. These are provided in table C.

Table A: ABH and GBH[1] offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police, 2008-09 to 2009-10

	England and Wales, recorded crime (number)	
Police force area, England and Wales[2]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cleveland	141	161
Durham	110	77
Northumbria	322	275
North East region	573	513
Cheshire	189	163
Cumbria	60	67
Greater Manchester	1,128	979
Lancashire	546	416
Merseyside	431	388
North West region	2,354	2,013
Humberside	238	219
North Yorkshire	163	154
South Yorkshire	374	290
West Yorkshire	597	645
Yorkshire and the Humber region	1,372	1,308
Derbyshire	177	166
Leicestershire	230	177
Lincolnshire	96	96
Northamptonshire	190	149
Nottinghamshire	400	301
East Midlands region	1,093	889
Staffordshire	305	261
Warwickshire	136	100
West Mercia	207	175
West Midlands	1,719	1,563
West Midlands region	2,367	2,099
Bedfordshire	194	205
Cambridgeshire	227	178
Essex	339	358
Hertfordshire	54	45
Norfolk	75	136
Suffolk	131	100
East of England region	1,020	1,022
London, City of	16	5
Metropolitan Police	4,728	4,781
London region	4,744	4,786
Hampshire	364	371
Kent	339	221
Surrey	87	27
Sussex	510	450
Thames Valley	570	632
South East region	1,870	1,701
Avon and Somerset	496	397
Devon and Cornwall	266	293
Dorset	127	108
Gloucestershire	98	95
Wiltshire	116	109
South West region	1,103	1,002
England	16,496	15,333
Dyfed-Powys	71	43
Gwent	88	102
North Wales	98	71
South Wales	327	266
Wales	584	482
British Transport Police	102	49
England and Wales	17,182	15,864

[1] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

[2] Four police forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces. The four forces are: West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

Table B: GBH offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police, 2007-08[1]

	England and Wales, recorded crime (number)		
		2007-08	
Police force area, England and Wales[2]	*Total GBH*	*Wounding with intent to do GBH*	*Wounding or inflicting GBH without intent[1]*
Cleveland	93	76	17
Durham	61	53	8
Northumbria	204	140	64
North East region	358	269	89
Cheshire	90	64	26
Cumbria	55	20	35
Greater Manchester	595	467	128
Lancashire	184	138	46
Merseyside	364	312	52
North West region	1,288	1,001	287
Humberside	89	55	34
North Yorkshire	25	21	4
South Yorkshire	154	111	43
West Yorkshire	381	306	75
Yorkshire and the Humber region	649	493	156
Derbyshire	87	55	32
Leicestershire	124	99	25
Lincolnshire	38	29	9
Northamptonshire	93	83	10
Nottinghamshire	149	122	27
East Midlands region	491	388	103
Staffordshire	109	34	75
Warwickshire	55	41	14
West Mercia	63	43	20
West Midlands	931	561	370
West Midlands region	1,158	679	479
Bedfordshire	81	67	14
Cambridgeshire	37	21	16
Essex	99	89	10
Hertfordshire	81	46	35
Norfolk	35	22	13
Suffolk	75	33	42

Table B: GBH offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police, 2007-08[1]

England and Wales, recorded crime (number)

	2007-08		
Police force area, England and Wales[2]	*Total GBH*	*Wounding with intent to do GBH*	*Wounding or inflicting GBH without intent[3]*
East of England region	408	278	130
London, City of	5	3	2
Metropolitan Police	1,945	1,002	943
London region	1,950	1,005	945
Hampshire	196	88	108
Kent	126	94	32
Surrey	43	25	18
Sussex	146	62	84
Thames Valley	148	88	60
South East region	659	357	302
Avon and Somerset	112	85	27
Devon and Cornwall	172	127	45
Dorset	31	20	11
Gloucestershire	19	15	4
Wiltshire	60	43	17
South West region	394	290	104
England	7,355	4,760	2595
Dyfed-Powys	62	31	31
Gwent	87	79	8
North Wales	81	56	25
South Wales	379	333	46
Wales	609	499	110
British Transport Police	12	11	1
England and Wales	7,976	5,270	2706

[1] Table revised 21 January 2010.

[2] A number of police forces included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data are not comparable between forces.

[3] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

Table C : Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument, 1997-98 to 2009-10

England and Wales, Recorded crime (number)

Police force area, England and Wales	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cleveland	1	1	3	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	1	4
Durham	3	2	0	1	2	3	0	2	3	4	0	1	1
Northumbria	11	5	9	5	4	8	8	6	7	10	14	10	4
North East region	15	8	12	11	9	13	11	11	13	17	18	12	9
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	3	2	4	2	7	4	2	5	1
Cumbria	3	1	5	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	3	2	0
Greater Manchester	16	14	10	14	23	19	17	16	11	14	15	18	11
Lancashire	6	2	1	15	4	10	12	11	1	4	13	6	10
Merseyside	8	11	6	14	3	12	10	14	10	10	9	11	8
North West region	36	31	22	46	34	45	44	44	29	32	42	42	30
Humberside	2	2	2	2	3	5	8	3	1	7	6	3	5
North Yorkshire	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	2
South Yorkshire	2	3	4	4	6	7	2	7	6	3	8	6	2
West Yorkshire	12	12	6	8	11	13	7	13	11	12	13	15	12
Yorkshire and the Humber region	17	17	13	14	20	25	18	26	20	22	27	24	21
Derbyshire	2	1	2	1	4	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	0
Leicestershire	1	1	0	4	2	4	9	3	3	5	3	4	5
Lincolnshire	0	1	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	3	3	2	2
Northamptonshire	2	2	1	3	3	5	1	0	6	5	4	2	1
Nottinghamshire	3	6	5	4	6	3	6	6	7	7	3	7	6
East Midlands region	8	11	10	12	16	16	21	11	19	23	14	17	14
Staffordshire	4	4	2	0	1	0	3	3	2	5	2	3	3
Warwickshire	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	1	5	2	1	1
West Mercia	3	3	1	3	5	2	5	3	0	3	1	2	4
West Midlands	4	16	15	9	19	17	22	21	22	15	15	24	9
West Midlands region	11	25	19	12	26	21	32	30	25	28	20	30	17

Table C: Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument, 1997-98 to 2009-10

England and Wales, Recorded crime (number)

Police force area, England and Wales	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	2	7	1	1	4	3	3	3	4	2
Cambridgeshire	1	1	4	0	1	2	5	2	2	2	4	0	2
Essex	1	5	9	2	10	7	5	0	6	9	3	5	3
Hertfordshire	2	1	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	6	3	3	3
Norfolk	0	5	2	4	1	0	3	1	1	3	3	2	4
Suffolk	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	2	3	2	2	0	4
East of England region	7	14	21	15	24	14	20	14	18	25	18	14	18
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	62	52	68	69	68	68	62	64	63	72	79	76	50
London region	62	52	68	69	68	68	62	64	63	73	79	76	50
Hampshire	1	3	5	3	7	8	3	7	4	8	7	3	10
Kent	8	3	8	4	10	6	4	4	7	6	5	3	9
Surrey	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	0	3	2	1
Sussex	4	4	5	5	6	9	3	9	4	3	3	4	3
Thames Valley	7	7	8	3	9	13	3	6	6	8	6	7	5
South East region	21	18	27	16	34	37	14	30	24	25	24	19	28
Avon and Somerset	3	5	5	3	4	4	4	3	2	4	5	3	6
Devon and Cornwall	8	6	1	5	6	2	3	10	4	5	4	2	3
Dorset	1	1	1	3	0	3	6	0	0	2	3	3	1
Gloucestershire	1	1	3	0	3	3	2	3	0	2	0	0	1
Wiltshire	2	0	1	0	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	0
South West region	15	13	11	11	16	14	17	19	7	14	14	10	11
England	192	189	203	206	247	253	239	249	218	259	256	244	198
Dyfed-Powys	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	1	1	4	2
Gwent	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	4	1	2	2	3	1
North Wales	2	0	2	1	2	4	0	5	2	1	3	0	3
South Wales	9	9	6	3	10	1	3	4	2	7	5	4	5
Wales	11	12	9	7	14	10	3	13	7	11	11	11	11
British Transport Police	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
England and Wales	203	201	212	213	261	263	242	262	225	271	268	255	210

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[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from her Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding her Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49251]

Damian Green: The following table shows the combined resource (revenue) and capital funding for 'Support for Local Authorities' included in the (published) 2010-11 and the 2011-12 estimate. It also shows the change in funding in both cash and real terms.

Home Office area providing support for local authorities	*Reference in Home Office supply estimate (£000)*	*2010-11 estimate (£000)*	*2011-12 estimate (£000)*	*Increase/(decrease) in cash terms (£000)*	*Movement in cash terms (percentage)*	*Movement in real terms (percentage)*
Crime and Policing Group	H and K	5,659,807	5,360,000	(299,807)	-5	-8
UK Border Agency	J	152,305	145,295	(7,010)	-5	-7

Home Office area providing support for local authorities	*Reference in Home Office supply estimate (£000)*	*2010-11 estimate (£000)*	*2011-12 estimate (£000)*	*Increase/(decrease) in cash terms (£000)*	*Movement in cash terms (percentage)*	*Movement in real terms (percentage)*
Office of Security and Counter Terrorism	I	696,080	678,373	(17,707)	-3	-5

To produce a detailed list of funding changes for every local authority individually would incur disproportionate cost to the Home Office. However, the breakdown of funding by police force is available within the published "Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2010/11" and "Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2011/12".

As the 2010-11 financial year is still in progress, we are not yet able to provide final spend to local authorities for this financial year; out-turn against the estimate will be published in the 2010-11 annual report and accounts.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a reply to the letter of 21 February 2011, on visas for overseas students. [48891]

Damian Green *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 25 March 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 17 February 2011 on Mrs Saima Noreen Rashid. [49773]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 25 March 2011.

National Wildlife Crime Unit: Finance

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department plans to provide for the National Wildlife Crime Unit in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [49543]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office will provide the following:

(a) £144,000 in 2011-12; and

(b) £136,000 in 2012-13.

Offences Against Children

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on establishing joint investigation teams to investigate abuse and exploitation of children overseas. [49401]

Damian Green: The UK Government are strongly committed to tackling human trafficking, and police led joint investigations that have been established with our European counterparts to investigate the abuse and exploitation of children is an approach that has proven to be highly effective.

The success of Operation Golf in safeguarding trafficked children from ongoing exploitation is a testament to the value of joint investigations and the new Human Trafficking Strategy will place renewed emphasis on the upstream elements of our approach to tackling these important issues.

Offences Against Children: British Nationals Abroad

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to review the effectiveness of legislation governing the prosecution of British nationals who commit sexual offences against children overseas. [49402]

James Brokenshire: The legislation was strengthened through the Policing and Crime Act 2009, to restrict overseas travel of sex offenders and through the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, to remove the condition of dual criminality so that a prosecution can be brought in this country even though the act committed was not an offence that took place in the UK.

We will work with the police and other law enforcement agencies to ensure they utilise these powers fully.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British nationals were arrested on suspicion of crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation of children overseas in the last five years. [49437]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold this information centrally. The investigation of suspected sexual abuse and exploitation of children overseas is not distinguished from domestic investigations on police data systems.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from her Department since her appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48439]

Damian Green: Information Communications Technology (ICT) items with an estimated value of over £100 in the following table were reported as having been taken between 12 May 2010 and the end of December 2010. Figures are collated and checked quarterly and are not yet available for the last quarter.

Arrangements for the management of physical assets other than ICT across the Home Office estate vary, and central data on thefts and losses are therefore collated annually at the end of the financial year. Further information cannot, therefore, be provided now, other than at disproportionate cost.

There have been no reported incidents of personal items over the value of £100 being taken without authorisation.

Action taken to recover any missing item will depend on the circumstances in which it was taken but will include referral to the police.

Items stolen between 12 May and 31 December 2010

	Core Home Office	UKBA	Identity and Passport Service	Criminal Records Bureau
Laptop	0	1	0	0
BlackBerry/mobile phone	2	5	0	0

Theft: Motor Vehicles

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures her Department has in place to identify cars registered in Great Britain which are stolen and subsequently offered for sale in other European countries. [49551]

James Brokenshire: The police share information on vehicles stolen in the UK with Interpol. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) shares information with participating member states via the EUCARIS system (European Car and Driving Licence Information System). This allows authorities in participating member states, when registering a vehicle, to check if it has been stolen.

UK Border Agency

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the UK Border Agency's gender-based guidelines; and if she will make a statement. [49747]

Damian Green: A revised gender asylum instruction (gender issues in the asylum claim) was produced in September 2010. Training material for decision-makers has been updated in line with the revised gender asylum instruction. A six-month quality audit review on gender asylum claims will report in May 2011. This will establish how well decision-makers are implementing the new guidelines on gender.

In relation to the provisions within the immigration rules for victims of domestic violence the Home Office definition of domestic violence is referred to in the guidance which applies to all applicants regardless of gender.

JUSTICE

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

20. **Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in its review of the work of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. [49340]

Mr Blunt: We are not reviewing the work of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. We are reviewing the terms of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. We intend to bring forward proposals in due course.

Magistrates: Expenses

21. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for reform of the payment of expenses to and compensation for time given by magistrates; and if he will make a statement. [49341]

Mr Djanogly: Clearly the time given voluntarily by magistrates is of significant value in supporting the criminal justice system. We want magistrates to be suitably recompensed for out of pocket expenditure when they provide public service. We are considering changes to the current expenses system, in consultation with the magistracy, with a view to aligning current rates payable to those common across the public, private and the third sectors. We believe such changes better accord with public expectations around payment of expenses and HMRC guidance.

There are currently no plans to reform financial loss allowances, which compensate magistrates for loss of earnings in respect of their volunteered time.

Access to Legal Redress

22. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure equal access to legal redress. [49342]

Mr Djanogly: My hon. Friend's question potentially covers almost every area covered by my Department. However, of topical note are the consultations on both Lord Justice Jackson's proposals for civil costs and the reform of legal aid.

Final impact and equality assessments will be published alongside our responses to the consultations, which will set out the way forward.

Imprisonment: Public Protection

24. **Karen Bradley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection have completed their tariffs. [49344]

Mr Blunt: On 17 November 2010, there were 6,375 prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection or Detention for Public Protection in prisons or secure hospitals. 3,173 of those prisoners are held beyond their tariff expiry date, excluding offenders who have been recalled to custody following release.

Public Order Offences

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the length of sentences which may be handed down for public order offences. [49343]

Mr Blunt: We have no plans to increase the maximum penalties for public order offences. Sentencing in individual cases is entirely a matter for the courts, taking account of sentencing guidelines issues by the independent Sentencing Council and of all the circumstances of each case.

Alternatives to Prison

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1283W, on sentencing, what advice the Sentencing Guidelines Council issues to magistrates and judges in circumstances where an offender *(a)* has no fixed abode and a curfew or unpaid work would be appropriate and *(b)* has advised the court of plans to leave the UK for a long time or permanently. [49415]

Mr Blunt: The Sentencing Guidelines Council issued Magistrates Court Sentencing Guidelines in 2008. These do not contain advice specific to the circumstances detailed in the question. They do advise magistrates that the requirements imposed in a community order must be suitable for the individual offender and, among other things, will be influenced by the ability of the offender to comply, and the availability of the requirements in the local area. The guidelines also advise that whenever the court reaches the provisional view that a community order may be appropriate, it should usually request a pre-sentence report from probation. The pre-sentence report will provide information on the offender that will help the court to decide whether to impose a community order and, if so, whether particular requirements are suitable for an individual offender.

Birds of Prey: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been for the illegal killing of birds of prey in each of the last five years. [49606]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court for offences related to the protection of wild birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, England and Wales, in 2005 to 2009 (latest available), is provided in the following table.

Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case other than that which may be identified from a statute. It is not possible to separately identify birds of prey from other species.

Please note that court proceedings data for 2010 are planned to be published in the spring of 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court for offences under section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981[1], England and Wales, 2005-09[2,3]

Statute	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*	*2009*
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 1	44	117	27	26	20

[1] Offences include:
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 1
Protection of wild birds
Protection of nests and eggs of wild birds

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

Bribery Act 2010

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish guidance on corporate hospitality under the Bribery Act 2010. [49875]

Mr Djanogly: The issue of corporate hospitality will be covered in the guidance I will be publishing shortly under section 9 of the Bribery Act about commercial organisations preventing bribery. This will make clear that corporate hospitality which seeks to improve the image of a commercial organisation, better to present products and services, or establish cordial relations, is recognised as an established and important part of doing business, and it is not the intention of the Act to criminalise such behaviour.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Aid

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid from civil legal aid budgets in disbursements in the last three years for which figures are available. [49435]

Mr Djanogly: The information is provided in the following table.

£ million

	2007-08[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Legal Help	15.9	18.1	20.6
Civil Representation	102.4	110.9	110.7
Total	18.3	129.1	131.3

[1] Disbursements under legal help in 2007-08 cannot be disaggregated from the tailored fixed fee scheme whereby a single fixed fee was paid which included the disbursement.

Legal Aid

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to his Department's impact assessment on the Green Paper on legal aid reform, in which year the total number of legal aid cases cited as the baseline figure for this assessment were brought; [49358]

(2) if he will calibrate the figures in his Department's impact assessment on proposed changes to legal aid on the basis of March 2010 data; [49359]

(3) how many people will lose access to civil legal aid as a result of the proposals in the Green Paper, Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales; [49361]

(4) what criteria his Department used to calculate the number of people that would lose access to legal aid under the proposals in the Green Paper, Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales; [49362]

(5) how many people will be affected by changes proposed in the November 2010 Green Paper, Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales. [49363]

Mr Djanogly: The Impact Assessments were based on 2008-09 closed case data.

It is our intention to publish final impact assessments alongside the Government's finalised proposals, and these will be based on 2009-10 financial data.

The Impact Assessments published alongside the consultation paper contain estimates of the potential impacts of the proposals in addition to details on the methodology used in assessing the potential impacts of the proposals.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Contracts

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what occasions W.S. Atkins have breached the terms of the contract for maintenance and cleaning of and catering in the probation estate in each year of the contract; and what subsequent action was taken in each case; [49360]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of terminating the contract with W.S. Atkins for maintenance, cleaning and catering in the probation estate; [49455]

(3) what plans his Department has for letting the next contract for maintenance, cleaning and catering in the probation estate; [49456]

(4) when the existing contract for maintenance, cleaning and catering on the probation estate is due to end. [49458]

Mr Blunt: Atkins fulfils an asset management function for the probation service and provides a 24-hour accommodation help desk supporting the management of the probation estate. It does not provide a maintenance, cleaning or catering service.

Responsibility for facilities management (FM) (including maintenance, cleaning and catering) lies with Amey and Interserve FM. These contracts have a term of five years from 30 June 2008, optionally extendable by two years. Contract payments for Amey, Atkins and Interserve are linked to performance. Plans for their succession are at an early stage and details are not yet available.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department raised from investors in order to run the Peterborough Social Impact Bond payment by results pilot. [49826]

Mr Blunt: The Department has not raised any money from investors to run the Social Impact Bond pilot at Peterborough prison. The money was raised by Social Finance whose investors will receive a return on their investment from the Department if the bond achieves the required reduction in reoffending.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has underwritten the Social Impact Bond payment by results pilot at Peterborough prison. [49827]

Mr Blunt: The Department has not underwritten the Social Impact Bond pilot at Peterborough prison. Investors managed by Social Finance bear the implementation and operational costs of the scheme and will receive a return on their investment from the Department if the bond achieves the required reduction in reoffending. Otherwise no payment will be made.

Prisoners: European Court of Human Rights

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners held in UK prisons have cases *(a)* before and *(b)* pending at the European Court of Human Rights. [49638]

Mr Djanogly: The Government do not keep statistics on how many applicants to the European Court of Human Rights are prisoners held in UK prisons.

The Government do not receive details of all applications made to the Court. In particular, the Government are not advised of the details of a significant number of applications that are declared inadmissible by the Court. This may include applications made by prisoners held in UK prisons. In relation to those applications which have been communicated to the Government by the Court, the information communicated may not always reveal whether the applicant is a prisoner in a UK prison, although we would normally expect this to be apparent from the facts of the case.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions in each of the past three years illicit drugs have been discovered inside HM Prison Full Sutton. [49637]

Mr Blunt: There have been a total of 46 finds of substances presumed to be illicit drugs at Full Sutton over the last three years: 18 finds in 2010; 15 finds in 2009; and 13 finds in 2008.

Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1280-1W, on sentencing, how many of the offenders recalled and returned to custody in the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010 were recalled to serve *(a)* their full sentence and *(b)* a shorter sentence. [49442]

Mr Blunt: Of the 4,163 offenders recalled between 1 July and 30 September 2010, 4,050 were returned to custody by 31 December 2010. Offenders recalled to custody are given review hearings by the Parole Board to determine whether to uphold the recall or re-release offenders. Written outcomes of these hearings are recorded centrally but are not collated. Collating data would exceed cost limits.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his assessment is of *(a)* current and *(b)* future demand for First Tier social security tribunal services in (i) Torbay and (ii) Devon. [49460]

Mr Djanogly: Demand for social security and child support (SSCS) is forecast nationally. Therefore, the Tribunals Service does not hold information on demand for SSCS services within either Torbay or Devon. Nationally we expect to receive about 415,000 SSCS appeals over the financial year 2010-11 and to receive 422,000 in 2011-12. The Tribunals Service has responded strongly to this additional demand by increasing its capacity to dispose of appeals through the recruitment of additional staff and judiciary as well as a range of business improvements. The number of cases disposed of has increased by 36% from 222,300 in April 2009-January 2010, to 302,700 in April 2010-January 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Clones

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to implement the European Parliament's proposal to ban the sale of meat and dairy products from cloned animals and their descendants; and if she will make representations in support of this proposal at the EU Agriculture Council. [49207]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* Food from cloned animals is currently regulated under the EU Novel Food Regulation and must be approved before it can be marketed. There have been no applications in any EU member states to authorise food from any cloned animals.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the European Food Safety Authority have advised that, for cattle and pigs, current evidence suggests that meat and milk from healthy clones or healthy descendants of clones is as safe as that from traditionally bred animals. The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes reached the same conclusion on 25 November 2010.

The Government's position is that a ban or temporary suspension on the sale of food from cloned animals and their descendants would be disproportionate in terms of food safety and animal welfare.

The Government consider that EU welfare legislation is sufficient to deal with any welfare issues that may arise for the clone or the surrogate dam.

Biofuels

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the proportion of agriculture in the UK that provides biofuels in the latest period for which figures are available. [49635]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not collect definitive figures on the area of crops grown for the production of biofuels in the UK.

Some information on the area of oilseed rape grown for use in biofuel production is available from the Energy Aid scheme. The latest published information shows that in 2009 there were almost 86,000 hectares of oilseed rape grown under this scheme in England. This is equivalent to around 16% of the total area of oilseed rape grown in England and less than 2% of the total croppable area in England. These figures may not capture all oilseed rape grown for biofuel production; only that declared under this particular scheme. Oilseed rape grown on other land which may have been used for biofuel production is not known because there is no way of identifying the end use of the crop.

Sugar beet is grown in the UK for bioethanol production. In 2009 we estimated that around seven thousand hectares was used to produce bioethanol. This is equivalent to around 6% of the total area of sugar beet grown in the UK and less than 0.2% of the total croppable area in England. It should be noted that this is a derived figure that includes an element of data extrapolation rather than final figures.

A UK biorefinery using wheat to produce bioethanol started production in 2009 but we are unable to provide information on its wheat use since this would breach data confidentiality requirements.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department is providing to encourage the up-take of low-carbon and energy efficient equipment and machinery in the agricultural sector in each of the next four financial years. [48588]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is committed to ensuring that the agricultural sector reduces its greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of more resource-efficient practices, such as more targeted application of nitrogen fertilisers and matching nutrition needs to that of livestock. Such practices make good business sense and often meet other environmental objectives, on water quality, air quality and conservation, for example.

The Government are also keen for farm businesses to improve their energy efficiency through the uptake of low-carbon and energy efficient equipment. We are working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which leads on energy policy, to ensure that its policies include farm businesses.

Alongside this, the enhanced capital allowance (ECA) scheme provides 100% first year capital allowances for businesses purchasing qualifying energy-saving plants and machinery. Further details are available on the Energy Technology List website:

www.eca.gov.uk/etl

HM Treasury leads on the ECA scheme and DECC is responsible for the Energy Technology List.

Charities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much she has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48292]

Richard Benyon: Grants to charities are awarded by all of DEFRA's delivery bodies, and information regarding these grants are held by the relevant delivery bodies, rather than being held centrally. DEFRA's accounting system records expenditure with charities, but does not distinguish between direct funding for activities and payment for goods and services. The detailed data for the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In addition, DEFRA does not have information available on how much will be spent with individual charities over the next five years.

Dairy Farming: Milk

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking in relation to the price for milk paid to dairy farmers. [49550]

Mr Paice: The Government are not involved in setting milk prices; these are the result of commercial decisions. However the market must work fairly and be transparent. I am working with the Dairy Supply Chain Forum to try to achieve this.

We are also establishing a Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice. The GCA will investigate complaints from anyone in the supply chain who is directly or indirectly affected by a breach of the Code and can deal with them anonymously. This means suppliers from both the UK and overseas will be able to complain confidentially for the first time about breaches of the Code. A Bill is currently being drafted.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in her Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if she will make a statement. [49193]

Richard Benyon: Since April 2010, as at 17 March 2011, nine civil servants in the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its agencies have been offered voluntary redundancy. Of these, a total of five accepted the offer.

For the same period, 429 civil servants in the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its agencies have been offered voluntary departure packages. Of these, a total of 41 have accepted.

Uptake of acceptance from the remaining individuals will not be known until 31 March 2011 at the latest.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from her Department since her appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48443]

Richard Benyon: Official items lost or stolen are all recorded as 'losses'. The following table shows reported losses in DEFRA and its network bodies, with an estimated value of over £100 (at the time of loss). Figures are from 12 May 2010 to 21 March 2011.

Description	*Quantity*
BlackBerry	11
Laptop Computer	19
Desktop computer	1
Projector	1

All reported incidents are investigated and if theft is suspected these are reported to the police. Staff are advised to report to the police losses of equipment while out of the office.

Farmers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on farmers establishing co-operatives. [49556]

Mr Paice: The Government strongly support the concept of collaboration by farmers. However decisions about whether or not to establish an agricultural co-operative can only be made on a commercial basis by the individual farmer, or group of farmers concerned. While the co-operative business model may not suit everyone, it is widely acknowledged that farmer-owned co-operatives and other forms of collaborative enterprise can offer a number of important benefits. These include increased purchasing and negotiating power for their members and the ability to enhance their members' returns by investing in facilities that give added value to their products. Support for co-operation and for the establishment of supply chain collaboration has been provided, and will continue to be provided, under the rural development programme for England.

Farmers: Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to consult farmers on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy; and if she will make a statement. [49545]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers and officials regularly discuss reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with a range of UK stakeholders, including farmers. The European Commission is expected to release regulatory proposals on the future of the CAP post-2013 towards the end of this year. DEFRA's intention is to consult UK stakeholders on these proposals and I would encourage farmers to make their views known.

Farmers: Nitrates

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to farmers of establishing new nitrate vulnerable zones; and if she will make a statement. [49547]

Richard Benyon: The current nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ) designations and Nitrates Action programme came into force on 1 January 2009 through the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008. The annual cost to the agricultural sector of implementing these regulations was estimated as being from £48.5 million to £68.6 million.

The actual cost is likely to be less than the range estimated for two reasons:

(i) the total area of land eventually designated as NVZs comprises 62% of England, rather than the 70% on which the 2008 estimates were based; and

(ii) Britain successfully negotiated a derogation from the livestock manure N farm limit (one of the more demanding requirements set by the nitrates directive), which could reduce the costs to the dairy sector by up to £21.7 million a year.

Fly-tipping

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the *(a)* level and *(b)* types of fly-tipped waste recovered from (i) public and (ii) private land which was (A) recycled and (B) sent to landfill in 2010-11. [49886]

Richard Benyon: Local authorities are required to report the number and size of fly-tipping incidents they deal with, the waste type involved, the land category on which the incident occurs and any enforcement action taken. The Environment Agency also reports the larger scale and hazardous fly-tipping incidents it deals with. There is no requirement for private landowners to report fly-tipping data to Government, though some do on a voluntary basis.

The fly-tipping official statistics for England are published on the DEFRA website; the latest published data are for 2009-10. Information for 2010-11 is still being collected.

A breakdown of the number of incidents and types of waste reported to the Fly capture data recording system by local authorities, the Environment Agency and a limited number of private landowners in England in 2009-10 is provided in the following table:

	Number of incidents recorded by:		
Waste type	*Local authorities*	*Environment Agency*	*Private landowners*
Household and black bags and other household waste	598,787	207	222
Commercial black bags and other commercial waste	74,869	109	202
Construction, demolition, excavation	54,657	237	41
White goods	39,328	29	13
Green waste	38,680	59	30
Other Electrical	29,656	15	9
Tyres	20,048	149	22
Vehicle parts	10,029	25	11
Animal carcasses	7,229	12	2
Chemical drums, oil/fuel	3,291	116	12
Asbestos	2,709	59	7
Clinical	2,336	3	1
Other unidentified	65,294	26	28

Local authorities report how much of their waste overall is recycled or sent to landfill but this information is not available specifically for fly-tipped waste.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidences of fly-tipping were recorded on *(a)* public and *(b)* private land in each local authority area in 2010-11. [49887]

Richard Benyon: Tables detailing the number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded by (i) local authorities (ii) the Environment Agency and (iii) private landowners, on public and private land by local authority area for 2009-10 have been deposited in the House Library. Information for 2010-11 is still being collected.

Food: Waste

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the contribution of food waste to greenhouse gas emissions in each of the last four years. [49238]

Richard Benyon: The report 'The Water and Carbon Footprint of Household Food Waste in the UK', jointly published in March 2011 by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the WWF, estimates that the associated greenhouse gas emissions for avoidable and possibly avoidable household food waste are 25.7 million tonnes CO_2 equivalent; of this, 20 million tonnes CO_2 equivalent is estimated to be from avoidable food waste.

'Waste arisings in the supply of food and drink to households in the UK', a report published by WRAP in March 2010, estimates that a further 10 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions is associated with supply chain food waste.

These figures are not available for earlier years, and no estimates have been made to cover all waste streams.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of food waste over the comprehensive spending review period. [49239]

Richard Benyon: The Government are reviewing all aspects of waste policy and delivery in England, including food waste, with a principal aim of ensuring we are taking the right steps towards a 'zero waste economy'. Preliminary findings of the review will be published in May 2011.

The Government have meanwhile been continuing to focus on preventing food waste arising wherever possible. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), our key delivery body on waste, continues to work with retailers and manufacturers via the 'Courtauld Commitment', and to provide useful advice and information to households to help them waste less via the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of levels of food waste in each of the last four years. [49242]

Richard Benyon: Our understanding of food waste levels is constantly changing as new evidence comes to light. Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) research estimated that total food waste in the UK was 18-20 million tonnes in 2009; by 2010 with newer data this was revised down to an estimate of 16 million tonnes.

8.3 million tonnes of this is household food waste and 3.57 million tonnes arises from manufacture, retail and distribution. The remainder comes from areas such as the hospitality sector, prisons, schools and other public sector premises, agriculture, and horticulture.

We will continue to update our figures as new data/evidence comes to light.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce a national strategy for the reduction of food waste. [49243]

Richard Benyon: The Government are developing a renewed strategy for all waste including food waste as part of the Waste Review. Preliminary findings of the review will be published in May 2011.

To date, the Government have sought to manage food waste in line with the waste hierarchy, which ranks waste management methods in order of environmental preference. Food waste prevention is better, environmentally, than any current treatment option, and sits at the top of the hierarchy. It can also offer financial benefits to businesses and households. The Government are currently working with the food industry and the public to reduce avoidable food waste via, for example, the 'Courtauld Commitment' and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

Marines

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the process is for the designation of marine protected areas; how her Department monitors the operation of the process; and if she will make a statement. [49569]

Richard Benyon: The process of designation of European marine sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) is set out in the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives and the associated guidance issued by the European Commission. These directives are primarily transposed by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 2007 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Proposals for all sites and their associated impact assessments are subject to public consultation. Recommendations for sites are made to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by the Government's statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) based upon the best available scientific evidence. DEFRA considers whether the recommendations meet the criteria set out in the directives. It should be noted that socio-economic factors cannot be taken into account in selecting sites. If suitable, the sites are put forward to the European Commission for designation.

The principles for designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. For the areas where the Secretary of State has responsibility for selecting MCZs, the SNCBs—Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee—have set up four regional MCZ projects to identify potential sites and have provided guidance on the process that should be followed. Each project has established stakeholder groups made up of a variety of key stakeholders in their regions to examine the evidence and put forward site recommendations and associated impact assessments. In November 2011, the SNCBs are due to come forward with their statutory conservation advice on the creation of MCZs and formally submit the regional stakeholder project recommendations and impact assessments to DEFRA. These recommendations will be based on the best available evidence, and the impacts on social and economic factors will also be considered. The independent Science Advisory Panel will comment on the extent to which these recommendations would contribute to an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas in the UK. Government officials will consider this information and make recommendations to Ministers on proposals for a formal consultation exercise to be held in early 2012. The Government will take final decisions in light of responses to that exercise.

Nitrates: Rivers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the levels of nitrates in rivers; and if she will make a statement. [49546]

Richard Benyon: Levels of nitrates in waters are assessed every four years, in accordance with the requirements of the nitrates directive.

The most recent assessment was made in 2008 and related to the period 2006-2007. This assessment showed that one third of the 6,929 surface water monitoring stations had maximum nitrate concentrations above 50mg/l nitrate, which is the threshold set by the directive as an indicator of polluted water. All land draining to polluted waters must be designated as a nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ).

We are reviewing the designation of NVZs. The next assessment of levels of nitrates in rivers will be available in 2012, and any changes to NVZ designations will come into effect from January 2013.

Ouse Washes

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the environmental assessment of the Ouse washes on which her Department based its conclusion that there was a risk of a breach of European law without action including the purchase of farmland. [49421]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 March 2011]*: I have arranged for a copy of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the Ouse Washes Habitat Creation Project to be placed in the House Library.

Poultry

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* protect and *(b)* increase the hen harrier population. [49404]

Richard Benyon: In England the hen harrier "Circus cyaneus" is an extremely rare bird and is afforded strong protection under domestic legislation and European directives which together provide a powerful framework for the protection of the birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. This includes two Special Protection Areas classified in part for their breeding hen harrier populations. In addition to this legal protection, raptor persecution is currently one of the UK's wildlife crime priorities as part of the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime.

A number of measures are being taken to increase the hen harrier population. In 2002 Natural England launched the Hen Harrier Recovery Project which aims to investigate the factors limiting hen harrier population growth and develop jointly agreed solutions with stakeholders to enable hen harrier recovery. It has set up a programme of stakeholder dialogue facilitated by the Environment Council (an independent charity which works with different organisations, including Government and non-governmental organisations, with the objective of reaching a sustainable solution) to find ways improve hen harrier population growth alongside the needs of grouse moor managers. DEFRA contributed £3,680 to this work in the 2010-11 financial year. In addition, the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project, supported by Natural England, seeks to demonstrate whether an economically viable grouse moor can be managed alongside a hen harrier population.

The management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) ensures that the breeding and wintering habitats of hen harriers are in favourable conservation status.

The Environment Council is carrying out a scoping study to investigate the potential of using rearing facilities as a tool for improving the conservation status of hen harriers and DEFRA has allocated £10,000 to this work in the 2011-12 financial year.

Rural Payments Agency

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what target the Rural Payments Agency has set for time taken to deal with enquiries; and how long it took the Rural Payments Agency to respond to enquiries on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [49536]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency has a published target to reply to written correspondence within 15 working days of its receipt.

During February 2011 the agency responded to 95.5% of written correspondence within 15 days.

In the same period 88.3% of incoming calls to the agency's customer service centre were resolved during the first call.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms she has put in place to ensure that advice given by the Rural Payments Agency is accurate. [49444]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency provides information to its customers in a number of different ways. It responds to written correspondence and to inquiries made to its customer service centre. There is comprehensive information and guidance available on the agency's website and in the various guidance booklets which are issued to customers.

The agency ensures that its people who deal with customers have appropriate training both in customer service and in the relevant subject matter. They also have access to scheme instructions which are developed in accordance with relevant legislation and policy. Managers undertake an appropriate level of quality checks within each different area of operation to ensure that guidance is correct and that areas for improvement or clarification are identified.

Rural Payments Agency: Information and Communications Technology

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to improve the Rural Payments Agency's IT systems. [49445]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency makes use of a considerable number of IT systems, reflecting its responsibility for administering over 60 common agricultural policy schemes, as well as other activities, such as livestock tracing. Last July the Government publicised the results of a review of the RPA, which included a detailed report on the agency's IT systems. The report can be located at the DEFRA website. The report included a number of specific recommendations on future system requirements, which the agency is seeking to implement on a value for money basis and ensure farm subsidy payments are delivered in an accurate and timely manner.

Tuna

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to meet retailers and producers who have not committed to source tuna fished without the use of fish aggregating devices in purse seine nets. [49161]

Richard Benyon: I have no specific plans to meet retailers and producers who have not committed to sourcing tuna fished without the use of fish aggregating devices in purse seine nets. This is a recognised method of fishing and, provided they do not make misleading claims about the provenance of the fish, businesses are at liberty to trade tuna that has been caught in this manner.

I am pleased to see that more retailers and producers are sourcing tuna caught using fishing methods that are more effective in targeting specific tuna species.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on fishing for tuna using fish aggregating devices in purse seine nets. [49164]

Richard Benyon: Fishing for tuna using fish aggregating devices in purse seine nets is a legally permitted fishing method approved by a number of regional fisheries management organisations.

Waste Management

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assistance her Department is providing for the development of systems and procedures to enable farm-scale anaerobic digestion; [48592]

(2) what assistance her Department is providing for the development of anaerobic digestate as a commercial fertiliser. [48593]

Richard Benyon: The Government are exploring this issue with industry, and are committed to increasing energy from waste (such as the production of heat, electricity and transport fuels) through anaerobic digestion (AD). This work is led by DEFRA, working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and other Government Departments.

The AD Framework document published in November 2010 sets out the steps which the Government believe need to be taken to achieve that aim. The project aims to facilitate collaborative work between industry, government and a wide range of interested parties to identify barriers to the uptake of AD, and key actions that can be taken forwards by industry, or in partnership. The project will look at issues relating to all models and technologies for AD which will include on-farm plants, and at issues relating to building and securing safe markets for digestate.

The document acknowledges that digestate is a valuable resource that can be used to displace inorganic fertiliser and that there is a need for clearly defined routes for the use of digestate so that renewable resources are recycled sustainably.

Two important documents on digestate are already available:

The Quality Protocol for the production and use of quality outputs from the anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste (17 September 2009).

The standard for digestate BSI PAS110 (22 February 2010).

These clarify when this material has been fully recovered and waste management controls are no longer required. They also provide users with confidence that the digestate they purchase conforms to an approved standard.

An AD strategy document is set to be published in the second quarter of 2011.

Water

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to measure the level of water used in each stage of the food supply chain. [49265]

Richard Benyon: We are taking a number of steps to improve national estimates of water use and to help businesses measure the level of water used in their own supply chains.

DEFRA is working with the Environment Agency to improve the quality of estimates of water abstraction by different parts of the supply chain; with Ofwat (the water services regulation authority) and the water companies to improve the consistency and detail of information provided by the water companies on the use of public water supply by different sectors; and with the Office for National Statistics on survey information which will enable us to estimate water use at a detailed sector level. We are engaging with the European Commission on its scoping work on water management initiatives. We are also appraising the options for water used in the production of goods or services in the supply chain, and will be providing support to businesses to sustainably manage and reduce this water usage.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to consult on the application to regions other than the south-west of her proposals on water affordability. [49621]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The Government are committed to supporting households that face water affordability pressures and those in areas with particularly high water bills, such as the south-west.

We will consult shortly on proposals to address water affordability across England. This will include reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the introduction of company social tariffs and options for additional Government spending to provide further support.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which bodies her Department has consulted as part of the preparation of its Water White Paper. [49205]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* We have consulted with a wide range of bodies in the development of policies which might potentially form part of the Water White Paper, including water companies, consumer organisations, other parts of Government, environmental groups, local authorities, the investment community and land managers. This has involved various stakeholder events and individual meetings.

We also received over 800 responses to our online survey on the White Paper, and over 60 responses to the Call for Evidence for the Review of Ofwat, both of which were open to anyone.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will bring forward proposals to equalise the eligibility of survivors of *(a)* cohabiting couples and *(b)* married couples for bereavement benefits and payments; [49151]

(2) what guidance his Department issues on the compatibility with equalities legislation of the practice of awarding bereavement benefits and other such payments to the survivors of *(a)* married and *(b)* cohabiting couples. [49167]

Steve Webb: Following a death, bereavement benefits—widowed parent's allowance, bereavement allowance and bereavement payment—are payable to the surviving spouse or civil partner on the basis of the national insurance contributions paid by the deceased person. Other qualifying conditions must also be met.

There are no plans to extend those benefits to cohabiting couples.

The Department does not issue guidance on the compatibility of bereavement benefits policy with equalities legislation and there is no duty to do so. I am satisfied that restricting those contributory benefits to surviving spouses and civil partners is not discriminatory.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45078]

Chris Grayling: The Department and its Agencies do not own any land or property. Asset transfer has already been completed through a private finance initiative contract known as PRIME, returning exchequer receipts of £250 million in 1998 and £100 million in 2003 when DWP outsourced its estate.

The DWP disposed of the majority of its vehicle fleet in August 2007. The Department's information systems/information technology and telephony requirements were outsourced to EDS (now part of Hewlett Packard) and BT in 2005.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48403]

Chris Grayling: DWP occupies its properties under the terms of a 20 year private finance initiative contract entered into in 1998 and pays an all inclusive unitary charge. The contract includes the provision of indoor plants, the cost of which is not separately identifiable, and the provision of landscape maintenance, from which the cost of (maintaining) outdoor plants and trees is not separately identifiable.

Employment Schemes

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Work Programme providers will be permitted to provide basic numeracy and literacy skills training to participants where such skills are deemed necessary workplace skills. [49261]

Chris Grayling: The Government are clear that providers are best placed to know what works for customers and as such we will not specify what Work Programme providers should deliver. Therefore Work Programme providers are free to offer whatever support they deem necessary to help a person back to work, including basic numeracy and literacy skills training.

Employment Schemes: Incentives

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account arrangements in the Work Programme for rewarding providers for retaining people in work take of the predominance of seasonal employment in some areas. [49168]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme funding model has been designed to strongly encourage providers to get people into long term sustainable employment. However, we acknowledge that in some cases people will move jobs, as may be the case in areas where seasonal employment is high. As such a period of employment for which a provider can claim an outcome does not necessarily need to be with one employer, but may be made up of two or more periods of employment.

This allows providers to take into account the local labour markets in areas where there may be a high proportion of seasonal employment. However, the emphasis of the Work Programme will, quite rightly, remain in getting people permanent employment in which they can progress.

Future Jobs Fund

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the drop out rate was for each of the Future Jobs Fund pilot schemes. [48312]

Chris Grayling: The future jobs fund (FJF) was not piloted. Recruitment to the FJF commenced in October 2009 and is due to finish in March 2011, with FJF placements expected to last for six months.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of people placed in employment in *(a)* Ashfield constituency and *(b)* Nottinghamshire through the Future Jobs Fund. [49874]

Chris Grayling: The Future Jobs Fund (FJF), at up to £6,500 per person, does not offer value for money to the taxpayer. It creates temporary, short-term placements, and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent employment.

Recent analysis shows over 45% of FJF participants are claiming benefit seven months after they started FJF. There are still too many FJF participants who are failing to get a sustained job. The published version of the analysis can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/early_analysis_of_fjf_participant_outcomes_march2011.pdf

The most recent Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 19 January 2011. Statistics are available on the FJF which covers the period from October 2009 to the end of October 2010.

There have been a total of 2,000 FJF-funded employment starts within the county of Nottinghamshire between October 2009 and October 2010 which includes 150 within the parliamentary constituency of Ashfield.

Breakdowns of this information can be found in the following table:

The number of people within Nottinghamshire county and Ashfield parliamentary constituency that have started FJF funded employment since October 2009

Month	*Nottinghamshire*	*Ashfield*
2009		
October	—	—
November	30	—
December	50	—
2010		
January	110	—
February	200	10
March	360	40
April	230	10
May	250	10
June	220	30
July	160	10
August	90	20
September	150	10
October	140	20
Total	2,000	150

Notes:
1. Data source—DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database November 2010.
2. Due to data protection protocols, values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash to avoid unnecessary disclosure. Additionally, any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding, totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Jobseekers and Work Programme Division

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances a single person with no children would be affected by the housing benefit cap; and if he will make a statement. [49782]

Steve Webb: From April 2011, the maximum local housing allowance rate for a single person with no children who claims housing benefit is £250 per week. This limit will apply in cases where the contractual rent exceeds that amount.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether discretionary housing payments are to be included in the calculation for the total household benefits cap. [49864]

Steve Webb: Discretionary housing payments will not be included in the calculation for the total household benefits cap.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications were made for discretionary housing payments in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* were granted and *(b)* went to appeal in each such year. [49865]

Steve Webb: Applications for discretionary housing payments are made to the local authorities, and the Department does not ask for returns on either the number of applications made or the number of appeals.

The Department does ask local authorities for the number of awards that are granted. However, this information is not always completed by local authorities, and so the data that the Department holds are incomplete.

Social Fund

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of his Department's budget for crisis loans he proposes to devolve to local authorities under his plans for reform of the social fund; and if he will make a statement. [49171]

Steve Webb: The annually managed expenditure allocated to social fund grants and loans will be proportioned between local authorities in England and the devolved Administrations.

We are currently developing options on how the funding will be allocated between local authorities in England and the devolved Administrations. Any new administrative burdens on local authorities will be assessed in the usual way and funded by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 14 of his Department's impact assessment on fraud penalties and sanctions, how many *(a)* cases leading to three-year loss of benefit for organised fraud and *(b)* cases of longer one to three strike loss of benefit sanction he expects there to be as a result of his proposed measures in each year to 2014-15. [46405]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the estimates of the number of cases which potentially could result in *(a)* three-year loss of benefit for organised fraud *(b)* longer one to three strikes for loss of benefit sanction each year to 2014-15. These measures will be introduced in 2012.

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Immediate three year loss of benefit sanction for organised fraud[1]	100	200	200
Longer one, two and three strike where there has been a conviction	8,000	18,000	19,000

[1] Covers serious cases of organised benefit fraud and serious cases of identity fraud.

Notes:

1. Projected growth between 2012-13 and 2013-14 assumes roll-out of the Single Fraud Investigation Service and Regional Mobile Taskforce.
2. Three-year loss estimates are rounded to the nearest 100; one, two and three strike sanctions are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an employee whose employer is not yet providing real-time earnings data to HM Revenue and Customs applying for universal credit after October 2013 will have their application treated as an application for tax credits rather than universal credit. [41278]

Chris Grayling: The White Paper "welfare that works" set out a provisional timetable for taking on claims to universal credit, with the current intention to start to take new claims to universal credit from October 2013, and no new claims being made to tax credits from 2014. This remains our intention subject to further planning and will take place even if an employer is not yet providing HMRC with real-time earnings data.

Work Capability Assessment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of bringing in the Work Capability Assessment Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 228, 2011). [49302]

Chris Grayling: The costs and savings associated with the revised work capability assessment (WCA) are set out in the impact assessment which accompanied the regulations, which can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-ia-eia.pdf

This shows there is a one-off cost of £9.2 million for implementing the revised WCA over three years. The majority of the costs lie with revising the Atos Healthcare IT software for inputting the medical assessments, and training Atos Healthcare professionals to implement the revised assessment. There will also be costs for revising the customer questionnaire in line with the proposals.

Ongoing costs and savings arise due to more people either being assessed to be in the support group or assessed as fit for work and receiving different benefit rates as a result. Details of these are outlined in annex 2 of the impact assessment.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to receive the next report from Professor Malcolm Harrington on the work capability assessment. [49413]

Chris Grayling: We expect to receive Professor Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment (WCA) before the end of 2011.

We look forward to receiving his recommendations for further improvements to the assessment to ensure it is as fair and accurate as possible.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the costs of implementing the Work Capability Assessment Regulations 2011 (S.I., 2011, No. 228) are reflected in his latest estimates of net savings from the implementation of his welfare reforms. [49697]

Chris Grayling: The costs and savings associated with the revised work capability assessment are outlined in the impact assessment which accompanied the regulations, which can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-ia-eia.pdf

These are included in all relevant Government forecasts.

Work Programme Contracts

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether start dates for Work programme contracts will be staggered; and by what date he expects all such contracts to have commenced. [45132]

Chris Grayling: The start dates of Work programme contracts are expected in June.

We will extend support where a significant gap arises where contracts do not start in June.

CABINET OFFICE

Deaths

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rates per 10,000 were for *(a)* each region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [48498]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rates per 10,000 were for (a) each region and (b) parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. (48498)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate per 10,000 population, for (a) English government office regions and Wales, and (b) parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available).

A copy of Table 1 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Well-being

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research into well-being his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated in the last five years. [48617]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has neither commissioned nor evaluated any research into well-being in the last five years. Following an invitation by the Prime Minister last November, the National Statistician is producing new measures of subjective well-being. The Cabinet Office is co-ordinating work across Government to consider how these measures might be applied to policy.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: International Cooperation

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the date is of the most recently bilateral aviation agreement between the UK and *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India, *(d)* China and *(e)* Indonesia. [45874]

Mrs Villiers: The dates of the most recently signed bilateral Air Services Agreements are as follows:

(a) 31 October 1946;
(b) 19 December 1957;
(c) 8 September 2005;
(d) 1 November 1979; and
(e) 28 June 1973.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what negotiations there have been between his Department and the Government of Japan on bilateral aviation agreements since May 1997; and what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with their Japanese counterparts on the matter during visits to Japan since May 2010. [45993]

Mrs Villiers: There have been a number of rounds of air services negotiations with the Japanese since May 1997. The last round of formal talks between the two sides was held on 11-12 November 2008 in Tokyo.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs explained in a speech in Tokyo in July 2010 that we stand ready to work with Japan to move ahead with a liberalisation of UK/Japan air services.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), Simon Fraser, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Lord Howell also raised the issue with the Japanese Government during visits in September 2010, January 2011 and February 2011.

Aviation: Working Hours

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals for reform of flight time limitations. [45451]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 51W, given to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham).

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on flight timetables for pilots. [46053]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 673W, given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon).

Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and each *(a)* agency and *(b)* non-departmental public body for which he is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years. [47424]

Norman Baker: The figures for each part of the Department for Transport for which the Secretary of State is responsible are as follows:

Organisation	*Status*	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	£ *2006-05*
Department for Transport	Central Department	0	0	0	0	0
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency	Trading fund	167,000	160,000	172,000	197,000	165,000
Highways Agency	Executive agency	17,000	0	9,000	43,000	40,000
Vehicle Certification Agency	Executive agency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Executive agency	0	1,296	4,167	0	4,786
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	Trading fund	15,680	30,247	24,592	94,611	30,247
Driving Standards Agency	Trading fund	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
British Transport Police	Non-departmental public body	0	0	0	0	0
Renewable Fuels Agency	Non-departmental public body	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger Focus	Non-departmental public body	0	0	0	0	0
High Speed 2 (HS2)	Non-departmental public body	0	0	0	0	0
Directly Operated Railways	Non-departmental public body	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost

Cycle to Work Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees in his Department are participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. [49407]

Norman Baker: There are 302 employees in the Department currently participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. Cycle to work schemes operate in the central Department (DfT(c)) and four agencies.

Organisation	*Number of participants*
Central Department DfT(c)	55
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	12
Vehicle Certification Agency	4
Highways Agency	130
Driving Standards Agency	101
Total	302

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that was (i) on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45039]

Norman Baker: The information requested is in the following table.

Organisation	
(a) Department	
Department for Transport (Centre) (DfT(c))	Food is only procured in any significant quantity by the DfT(c) HQ supplier. Suppliers of fresh and frozen fish comply with the Marine Council Standards for all products that they sell.
(b) Agencies	
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	All of the seafood procured by Avenance at the DVLA in 2010 and 2011 to date complies with the Marine Stewardship Council's guidance on sustainable sourcing practices. The DVLA does not use any products from the Marine Conservation Society's "fish to avoid list".
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	Seafood is procured on behalf of the DSA by a third party for catering services at the training and development centre in Bedford. Procurement for (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 is detailed as follows: (i) (A) 4 kilos king prawns, for use in staff restaurant (B) None. (ii) (A) Of the total 228 kilos procured, 21 kilos were included on the Marine Stewardship Council list of fish species (B) Of the total 86 kilos procured, 2.8 kilos were included on the Marine Stewardship Council list of fish species.
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	There are no catering contracts at GCDA but low volume purchases are made from high street suppliers.

Organisation	
Highways Agency (HA)	Food is procured for the Highways Agency through its Property Facilities Management contracts. As there is nothing in the associated provisions requiring returns as regards this sort of information, the HA does not hold any such data, nor does it have any way of estimating it.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Other than the very occasional light lunch for meetings with external stakeholders, the MCA does not procure food.
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	VCA does not procure any food.
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	VOSA does not have a catering contract in place.
(c) Non-departmental public bodies	
British Transport Police Authority (BTPA)	BTPA acquires catering from local companies for occasional meetings, who rarely provide fish products. The Authority holds no information on the origin of species served.
Cycling England (CE)	CE is not a legal entity and cannot procure. DfT (c) have not procured any seafood at all on its behalf.
Directly Operated Railways (DOR)	DOR has reported a nil return.
High Speed 2 (HS2)	Nil return in respect of HS2 Ltd which is not a procurer of fish.
Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)	NLB is unable to estimate the proportion of the seafood procured that was (i) on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date.
Passenger Focus (PF)	None in all cases of this question. The only foodstuffs procured by PF are coffee, tea, milk, fruit juice and sugar.
Railway Heritage Committee (RHC)	RHC has reported a nil return.
Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA)	RFA have not procured any sea food or similar products at any time.
Trinity House (TH)	TH has reported a nil return.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-ministerial department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43952]

Norman Baker: The last financial year for which figures are available for the cost of the procurement function is 2009-10. The information is that provided to the Cabinet Office annual Back Office benchmarking survey and is as follows:

Organisation	*Cost of the procurement function (£)*
DfT(c)	3,199,732
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	2,085,837
Driving Standards Agency	478,768
Government Car and Despatch Agency	[1]—
Highways Agency	4,433,324
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	288,340
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	203,816

[1] No data.

Only organisations with a headcount of over 250 were within scope for benchmarking so the Vehicle Certification Agency is not included. The non-departmental public bodies were also not included.

Information on the cost of the procurement function in the bodies not included in the survey is not available.

The benchmarking exercise set its own parameters for what fell within the scope of cost of the function and these may vary from costs of the function collected for any other purpose.

The outsourcing function is covered by the procurement function; not as a discrete function.

The Cabinet Office has published procurement costs for all Government Departments for 2009-10 at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/back-office-benchmark-information-200910

European Aviation Safety Agency

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to meet officials of the European Aviation Safety Agency. [48038]

Mrs Villiers: I have no plans to meet officials from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). However, officials from the Department regularly meet officials from EASA, as do the Civil Aviation Authority.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made in allowing insurers to gain access to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency drivers database. [49813]

Mike Penning: A number of workshops have been held with the insurance industry to identify the system requirements, the preferred solution and the costs to design, develop, test and implement the required solution.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is now preparing the necessary business case to enable a full costing to be made and it will be shared with the insurance industry. The exact time scale for implementation will depend on the specific options chosen.

Transport: Finance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department gave to the local transport authority in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)*

Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk (i) in total, (ii) per mile of road in the local authority area and (iii) per head of population in that area in each year since 1997. [49158]

Norman Baker: Funding provided to the local transport authorities in Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk to support local transport is shown in the following tables. From 2000-01 this comprises the integrated transport block and highways maintenance capital blocks, funding for specific major projects, road safety projects, bus services and cycling and walking schemes, and a number of additional road maintenance funding streams. Prior to 2000-01 funding was provided in the form of 'gross approved spending'.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant, and it is not possible to disaggregate this by service.

Funding for concessionary travel has not been included, since this is provided to the district councils in these areas, rather than the upper tier transport authorities.

(i) In total

£ million

FY	*Suffolk*	*Beds*[1]	*Cambs*	*Essex*	*Herts*	*Norfolk*
2010-11[2]	33.001	14.856	27.464	[3]72.807	39.865	48.035
2009-10	34.286	14.176	25.516	45.562	39.326	41.989
2008-09	37.492	17.170	65.964	43.053	35.074	34.792
2007-08	30.495	18.204	65.057	40.412	33.905	40.020
2006-07	42.029	20.909	43.515	32.877	31.743	40.971
2005-06	38.219	11.264	28.512	35.139	38.074	35.872
2004-05	34.222	10.032	30.941	28.571	42.875	42.736
2003-04	26.213	10.738	21.667	28.153	26.746	40.181
2002-03	23.279	26.024	17.273	36.301	26.085	33.614
2001-02	25.126	9.847	16.992	35.260	23.150	39.487
2000-01	9.674	4.715	8.107	13.236	9.911	11.128
1999-2000	6.756	5.045	8.592	9.992	7.302	9.346
1998-99	5.838	3.513	5.613	6.068	4.997	7.115
1997-98	6.141	3.692	8.542	6.615	6.550	7.713

(ii) Per mile of road

£000

FY	*Suffolk*	*Beds*[1]	*Cambs*	*Essex*	*Herts*	*Norfolk*
2010-11[2]	7.630	10.189	9.373	[3]14.290	13.092	7.665
2009-10	7.927	9.723	8.709	8.943	12.915	6.700
2008-09	8.648	11.968	22.517	8.451	11.418	5.532
2007-08	7.038	12.696	21.819	7.944	10.372	6.518
2006-07	9.713	14.667	14.915	6.497	9.754	6.510
2005-06	8.992	8.113	9.881	6.949	12.684	5.719
2004-05	8.060	7.060	10.706	5.647	14.155	6.856
2003-04	6.147	7.442	7.543	5.697	8.277	6.399
2002-03	5.467	18.058	6.021	7.364	8.089	5.362
2001-02	5.910	6.844	5.932	7.164	7.193	6.108
2000-01	2.279	3.783	2.834	2.294	3.086	1.780
1999-2000	1.778	4.110	3.467	2.239	2.580	1.650
1998-99	1.539	2.868	2.268	1.362	1.769	1.258
1997-98	1.621	3.020	3.457	1.488	2.324	1.366

(iii) Per head of population

£ total

FY	*Suffolk*	*Beds*[1]	*Cambs*	*Essex*	*Herts*	*Norfolk*
2010-11[2]	46	36	45	[3]52	36	56
2009-10	48	34	42	33	36	49
2008-09	52	42	109	31	33	41
2007-08	43	45	107	29	32	49
2006-07	60	52	74	24	30	49
2005-06	55	28	49	26	36	43
2004-05	50	25	54	21	41	52
2003-04	39	27	38	21	26	49
2002-03	35	67	31	27	25	42
2001-02	38	26	31	27	22	49
2000-01	14	12	15	10	10	14
1999-2000	10	13	16	8	7	12

(iii) Per head of population

						£ total
FY	*Suffolk*	*Beds*[1]	*Cambs*	*Essex*	*Herts*	*Norfolk*
1998-99	9	10	10	5	5	9
1997-98	9	10	16	5	5	10

[1] Figures for Bedfordshire relate to funding provided to Bedfordshire county council from 1997-98 to 2008-09, and funding provided to Bedford borough council and Central Bedfordshire council for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

[2] Figures for 2010-11 do not include the fourth quarter payments of local authority major scheme funding.

[3] Essex has received £28.5 million in 2010-11 for the A13/A130 Sadlers Farm Junction major scheme.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will establish a carbon timeline in respect of housing stock to plan and monitor carbon reduction targets. [49540]

Gregory Barker: The UK has signed up to legally-binding carbon budgets. A detailed breakdown of the Government's actions and milestones for meeting the carbon budgets will be set out in a carbon plan, the draft of which has been made available on my Department's website. This covers our expectations for the housing stock. The final, 'live' version of the carbon plan will be published in October 2011. Quarterly updates on progress against actions within the plan will be published on the No. 10 website thereafter.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the effects on domestic energy bills of the introduction of a carbon floor price of £16 per tonne of carbon dioxide emitted from 2013. [49882]

Gregory Barker: On 23 March 2011, the Government announced that, following consultation, a carbon price floor for electricity generation will be introduced from 1 April 2013. The carbon price floor will start at around £16 per tonne of carbon dioxide (tCO_2) and follow a linear path to £30/tCO_2 in 2020 (in real 2009 prices) to drive investment in the low-carbon power sector. The carbon price support rates for 2013-14 will be equivalent to £4.94/tCO_2. Accompanying the announcement, HMRC published a tax information and impact note, available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Based on the market prices of fossil fuels and carbon, the economic determinants published at Budget, and assuming full pass through to the wholesale electricity price, average annual household electricity bills will increase by around 1% (£6 in real 2009 prices) in 2013 and around 4% (£17 in real 2009 prices) in 2016 compared to what they otherwise would have been. However, in the late 2020s electricity bills will be between 2-4% lower than would otherwise have been the case.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department were in the Civil Service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44350]

Gregory Barker: As of 1 March 2011, there are five staff on the DECC redeployment register. All have been on the register for more than six months as of this date.

Energy: Carbon Emissions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change for electricity market reform to deliver a close to zero-carbon power sector by 2030; and what definition of close to zero-carbon his Department uses. [49364]

Gregory Barker: We are considering the advice from the Climate Change Committee and will respond to it as part of the October report on the policy and proposals to meet the fourth carbon budget, following Parliament's decision on setting the level of the fourth carbon budget in legislation.

The Electricity Market Reform White Paper will set out the mechanisms that the UK will use to deliver the decarbonisation of the electricity sector, in line with the fourth carbon budget.

Energy: Prices

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on price differentials for those with pre-payment meters; and if he will make a statement. [49557]

Charles Hendry: Energy tariffs are a matter for Ofgem, who have put in place rules to protect consumers on pricing, including licence condition changes to prevent unfair price differentials, such as those between different payment methods.

Ofgem has reported on the effectiveness of these changes and, as part of their Retail Market Review, found that prepayment meter (PPM) customers now pay, on average, £20 less than standard credit customers for their gas and electricity. They have also found that direct debit customers now pay, on average, £70 less than PPM for gas and electricity, which is within the £88 indicative cost difference between providing and servicing a PPM compared to a direct debit account, identified by Ofgem. A copy of the full Ofgem Retail Market Review—Findings and Proposals is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

We support Ofgem's actions in tackling unjustified tariff premiums to ensure consumers do not lose out.

Nuclear Fusion: Research

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of expenditure on research into cold fusion. [47817]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

None. At present no funding has been awarded for research into cold fusion by bodies funded by this Department.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 757W, if he will direct the Chief Nuclear Inspector to seek evidence from experts *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the nuclear industry in preparing his report on the situation in Japan and the lessons to be learned; and if he will request the Chief Nuclear Inspector to hold in public any sessions held for the purpose of taking oral evidence. [49792]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State has asked UK Chief Nuclear Inspector Dr Mike Weightman to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid-May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be published in the public domain.

The Chief Nuclear Inspector's reports will be independent, informed from a robust evidence base, comprehensive, wide in scope and based on the best technical advice available.

The report will be produced in close co-operation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), Japanese authorities, and other international regulators to carefully establish what lessons can be learned.

Renewable Energy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the reliability of renewable energy generation; and if he will make a statement. [49074]

Gregory Barker: DECC publishes annually the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) which gives the installed capacity, generation and load factors for the main renewable energy technologies. The load factor provides a measure of the amount of electricity generated by each technology compared to the theoretical maximum output under ideal conditions. Table 7.4 of DUKES 2010 contains the installed capacity, generation and load factors for the key renewable energy technologies in 2009:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

The next edition of DUKES, which will contain the 2010 figures for renewable energy technologies, will be published on 28 July 2011.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he made of the potential energy, economic and environmental effects of construction of a Severn barrage. [42528]

Charles Hendry: The conclusion of the Severn tidal power feasibility study was that the Government do not see a strategic case for public investment in a Severn tidal power scheme in the immediate term. However, the Government recognise that factors which will determine the feasibility of Severn tidal power could change over time, and the report contains potential triggers for a review, though it is not expected that a review will take place before 2015 at the earliest.

The outcome of the feasibility study does not preclude a privately financed scheme coming forward in the meantime.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 704W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, *(a)* for what reasons he does not collect and *(b)* if he will make it his policy to collect data on the revenue provided to the Exchequer from (i) tax and (ii) national insurance contributions attributable to the solar photovoltaic industry since the date of implementation of the feed-in tariff scheme. [46361]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs do not monitor tax and national insurance receipts for individual industries at this level of classification detail.

HMRC produce a breakdown of tax receipts by sector for pay-as-you-earn income tax and national insurance contributions, corporation tax and VAT. These breakdowns record receipts at broad industry level (based on the ONS standard industrial classification or HMRC standard trade classification). The solar photovoltaic industry is not identified as a separate industry within the classification frameworks.

Moreover receipts are recorded at company level (or scheme level for PAYE). If a company (or scheme) is engaged in a number of different activities it is not possible to split receipts between them and all receipts will tend to be allocated to its main activity. Receipts at detailed industry level are not therefore reliably measurable and are not published. This would apply to the solar photovoltaic industry even if the classification systems did identify this separately.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the provision of support for small-scale photovoltaic generators using feed-in tariffs to enter the below 10KW market; and if he will make a statement. [49465]

Gregory Barker: The Government, working with industry, are developing a range of measures to support development of the microgeneration market, including the sub 10 kW solar photovoltaic sector. The Microgeneration Strategy consultation, which addresses the non-financial barriers affecting small scale renewables, closed on 16 March. We are now considering the responses and these will feed into a Microgeneration Strategy which will be published in early summer, setting out the steps that are required to address manufacturing, skills and supply chain issues for the full range of microgeneration technologies, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/microgen_strat/microgen_strat.aspx

Solar Power: Manufacturing Industries

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to support the development of the solar technology manufacturing sector. [49463]

Gregory Barker: The Microgeneration Strategy consultation addressed the non-financial barriers to the development of small scale renewables including solar. The consultation closed on 16 March. We are now considering the responses and these will feed into a Microgeneration Strategy which will be published in early summer, setting out the steps that are required to address manufacturing, skills and supply chain issues for the full range of microgeneration technologies.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis was for his assessment that the *(a)* community right to challenge and *(b)* community right to buy scheme would provide greater opportunities for community and voluntary groups to have a greater say over what happens in their local areas. [49102]

Andrew Stunell: Impact assessments for both the Community Right to Challenge and Community Right to Buy have been prepared and are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/

Council Housing: Birmingham

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Audit Commission plans to publish the report of its strategic inspection of the housing stock of Birmingham City Council initiated in November 2009. [49645]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

I assume the Honourable Member means Birmingham City Council's housing landlord services inspection that the Audit Commission started in March 2010. I can confirm the inspection was commenced last year. However, the report is the subject of a review at the request of Birmingham City Council. We are working to finalise the report, but we have not set a date for publication.

Council Tax Benefits: Pensioners

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether pensioner households will be subject to his Department's planned reduction to council tax benefit. [49678]

Robert Neill: In developing their plans for a new system for local council tax rebate schemes, the Government are clear that they are committed to retaining council tax support for the most vulnerable in society, in particular pensioners. A full consultation on the new system in England will be undertaken in due course.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of his Department are participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. [49406]

Robert Neill: As at 31 March 2011 32 employees will be participating in the Department's Cycle to Work scheme. A total of 77 vouchers for bicycles and associated equipment have been issued since the scheme was launched in April 2009.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49181]

Robert Neill: Since April 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government has offered 33 staff "Voluntary Redundancy" as defined by the new Civil Service Compensation Scheme. It is too early to say how many staff will accept these offers. A further 154 staff have accepted "Voluntary Exit". Prior to the commencement of the new terms, 134 staff left the Department on voluntary terms under the previous compensation scheme.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation his Department undertook with *(a)* environmental groups and *(b)* the construction industry prior to the announcement that new homes will not be required to be zero carbon. [49837]

Grant Shapps: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon. What we are not going to do is to try to build in how many electrical appliances such as plasma TVs a homeowner may have. However, these appliances are already covered by other arrangements such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, so this will have no impact on the Government's carbon reduction strategy. What this will do is minimise costs to house builders, helping them to deliver the new homes the country needs.

The Government do not usually consult on Budget related announcements. However, the Department has discussed the zero carbon policy, and the issues arising, with both environmental groups and the construction industry over a long period of lime through forums such as the 2016 task force, and through bodies such as the Zero Carbon Hub.

The Zero Carbon Hub has recently provided expert recommendations on the right minimum levels of carbon reductions to be required to be delivered on the site of the home itself. Both house builders and environmental groups were involved in the preparation of these recommendations.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of removing the requirement for new homes to be zero carbon on the Government's carbon dioxide reduction strategy; and if he will make a statement. [49881]

Grant Shapps: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon. What we are not going to do is to try to build in how many electrical appliances such as plasma TVs a homeowner may have. However, these appliances are already covered by other arrangements such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, so this will have no impact on the Government's carbon reduction strategy.

The approach to the zero carbon standard announced in the Growth Review will not detract from the Government's carbon reduction strategy. Emissions from electrical appliances are being addressed through policies ranging from decarbonisation of the national grid and support for renewables to energy performance and labelling standards. Emissions from electrical appliances are also subject to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme arrangements. Given this, the approach on zero carbon homes will not change the UK's overall carbon budget obligations in respect of the sectors of the economy covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Housing: Owner Occupation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to work in partnership with *(a)* the National House Building Council and *(b)* other organisations to provide consumer protection for new home owners. [49381]

Grant Shapps: We are already working with the National House Building Council and other warranty bodies to improve consumer protection for new home buyers. The Council and other bodies launched a Consumer Code for Home Builders in April 2010. These bodies will shortly be reviewing this Code in the light of the first year's experience, and we will be working with them to consider further improvements.

Local Government: Broadcasting

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received in respect of filming at public meetings of local councils. [49383]

Robert Neill: My letter of 23 February 2011 to principal local authorities encouraging them to be more transparent by opening up their meetings to citizen journalists was prompted by a series of incidents, highlighted in the press and in social media, about people being ejected from council meetings for blogging, tweeting or filming, which I consider to be potentially at odds with the fundamentals of local democracy. I would reiterate my call to all councils to take a welcoming approach to those who want to bring local news stories to a wider audience. I have placed a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Pay

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from local authorities in respect of local authority staff salaries. [49078]

Robert Neill: The Government expect councils to show restraint when setting senior pay and the Secretary of State has called on those earning the largest salaries to take a voluntary pay cut—a reduction of 5% for those earning over £150,000 and a reduction of 10% for those earning over £200,000. He has also suggested that no new local authority chief executives should be recruited on a salary that exceeds the Prime Minister's current salary of £142,500. In addition, in October 2010, Ministers held a roundtable discussion with senior councillors and local authority representatives to discuss mechanisms for increasing accountability in the setting of senior pay in local government.

The Secretary of State receives representations from local authorities on a broad range of issues. Of course, the Government's role in specific local government pay issues is extremely limited as they are, rightly, a matter for the individual councils as the employer. Councils must make sure, however, that their decisions on pay and work force are fully in the interests of the communities they represent and give them the value for money they deserve.

The Department has also been consulting on proposed new transparency arrangements to increase public scrutiny of senior salaries in local government. A summary of the consultation responses will be published in due course.

Public Buildings: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will provide training for non-facility owning sports clubs to assist in the transfer of publically-owned facilities to community-owned facilities; and if he will make a statement. [49197]

Andrew Stunell: The Asset Transfer Unit, which is funded by the Department, has developed an interactive online asset transfer toolkit specifically aimed at sports clubs, as a result of a commission by Sport England. The toolkit will be launched in mid-April, and will provide a direct practical response to the growing demand for help from individual clubs, local authority sports and leisure departments, County Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies for individual sports. The Unit has also been involved in three linked county-wide training events, run by Sport England, as part of the same contracted programme.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many successful community asset transfers there have been in each of the last six months; and which assets have been so transferred. [49198]

Andrew Stunell: The following assets have been transferred with direct support from the Asset Transfer Unit, through the Advancing Assets for Communities programme funded by the Department:

Name of asset	*Building type*	*Month*
Highfields Community Centre, Leicester	Community Centre	December
Bideford Rugby Ground. Bideford, Devon	Rugby Ground	December
Keighley Central Hall, Bradford	Methodist Central Hall	January

The Department does not hold information on assets transferred by local authorities or other bodies, which have not been directly supported by a DCLG programme.

Sportsgrounds: Planning Permission

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects of local authority planning fees on the development of community sports facilities; and if he will make a statement. [49199]

Greg Clark: Research commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport into the regulatory burden on sport and recreation clubs was published this month. ('Red Card to Red Tape—How sports clubs want to break free from bureaucracy'). This highlighted planning fees as one of the burdens, especially for applications that cover a large site area.

The Government recently consulted on proposals that would allow local authorities to set their own fees which recoup costs but do not exceed them.

We are also legislating for Neighbourhood Plans and Development Orders that will offer the opportunity to simplify the planning process where development is supported by the community and avoid the need for subsequent planning applications.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to question 44110, on the answer to question 35814, tabled on 1 March 2011 for answer on 3 March 2011. [49867]

Robert Neill: Question 44110 was answered on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1215W.

Zero Carbon Homes Task Force

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce has met; what the *(a)* composition and *(b)* remit of the Taskforce is; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Taskforce since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49878]

Grant Shapps: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon. What we are not going to do is to try to build in how many electrical appliances such as plasma TVs a homeowner may have. However, these appliances are already covered by other arrangements such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, so this will have no impact on the Government's carbon reduction strategy. What this will do is minimise costs to house builders, helping them to deliver the new homes the country needs.

The 2016 task force is a senior-level body bringing together Government, industry and green groups to support development and implementation of the zero carbon homes policy. The task force meets approximately every six months and since 2007 has met 15 times. The task force is a voluntary body and the only costs incurred by the Department are for the administration support provided for meetings.

Terms of Reference:

The 2016 task force is jointly-chaired by Stewart Baseley, Executive Chairman, Home Builders Federation and Richard McCarthy, Director General for Housing and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government.

The purpose of the task force is to act as a sounding board by:

providing a forum for the exchange of information about the development of zero carbon homes policy and the views of DCLG's key partners in delivering the policy; and

identifying barriers to implementation of the 2016 zero carbon homes policy and timeline, with a focus on energy supply, skills, capacity and supply chain issues, research and consumer attitudes, and propose measures to address them.

The task force meets approximately every six months.

2016 task force membership

Richard McCarthy—Director General, Housing and Planning, DCLG

Stewart Baseley—Executive Chairman, Home Builders Federation

John Slaughter—Director of External Affairs, Home Builders Federation.

Paul King—Chief Executive, UK Green Building Council

Michael Ankers—Chief Executive, Construction Products Association

David Green—Chief Executive, UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Martin Wheatley—Programme Director, Local Government Association

Colin Butfield—Head of Campaigns, WWFUK

Kate Henderson—Chief Executive, Town and Country Planning Association

Imtiaz Farookhi—Chief Executive, National House Building Council

Stephen Muers—Head of policy and performance, Homes and Communities Agency

Philip Selwood—Chief Executive, Energy Saving Trust

Neil Jefferson—Chief Executive, Zero Carbon Hub

David Adams—Director, Zero Carbon Hub

David Wagstaff—Head of Distributed Energy, DECC

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence (i) he and (ii) Ministers in his Department had with members of the Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce prior to the announcement that new homes will no longer be required to be zero carbon. [49879]

Grant Shapps: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon. What we are not going to do is to try to build in how many electrical appliances such as plasma TVs a homeowner may have. However, these appliances are already covered by other arrangements such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, so this will have no impact on the Government's carbon reduction strategy. What this will do is minimise costs to house builders, helping them to deliver the new homes the country needs.

The Government do not usually consult on Budget related announcements. However, DCLG Ministers have had a number of discussions and correspondence with members of the task force on the development and implementation of zero carbon policy.

EDUCATION

Academies: GCSE

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of year 11 academy pupils *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each academy were entered for (i) a history GCSE, (ii) a geography GCSE, (iii) a modern foreign language GCSE, (iv) a physics GCSE, (v) a chemistry GCSE, (vi) a biology GCSE, (vii) a science GCSE, (viii) an English GCSE, (ix) an English literature GCSE, (x) a mathematics GCSE, (xi) an OCR national level 2 qualification in information and communications technology and (xii) a diploma in digital applications in 2009-10; and how many in each category were entitled to free school meals; [44308]

(2) what proportion of year 11 academy pupils achieved at least *(a)* five A* to C GCSEs, not including any other qualification judged to be equivalent and *(b)* five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics but not including any other qualification judged equivalent to GCSEs for each academy in 2009-10; and how many such pupils were entitled to free school meals in each case. [44450]

Mr Gibb: Analysis of individual GCSE subject by grade, and the number of pupils achieving five GCSEs grade A* to C excluding equivalents for each school are due to be published on the 31 March 2011.

We will place this information in the House Libraries when it has been published.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of Key Stage Four exam entries was in academic non-applied GCSEs in each school replaced by an academy in the last year of the school's existence; what the name of the academy was in each such case; and how many such students were in receipt of free school meals. [44451]

Mr Gibb: The information requested, for academies opened in 2010-11 is shown in the following table. Information for academies opened in earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects in schools replaced by an academy in the last year of the school's existence for academies opened in 2010/11 and the number of those pupils who were eligible for free school meals, 2010

Academy name	*Percentage of GCSE entries*	*Number of FSM*
Ashmole Academy	75.6	16
Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet	98.4	[1]—
Norton Hill School	78.1	10
Somervale School Specialist Media Arts College	69.3	8
Beths Grammar School	78.4	[1]—
Erith Secondary School	50.6	30
Darrick Wood School	69.1	15
Kemnal Technology College (part of the Kemnal Trust)	75.3	19
Brine Leas High School	66.2	12
Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College	80.6	9
The Fallibroome Academy	92.1	10
Queen Elizabeth School	71.3	[1]—
Challaston Academy	75.6	16
Ivybridge Community College	75.2	20
Uffculme School	83.0	5
Kingsmead School	92.3	65
King Harold School (part of the Kemnal Trust)	72.7	7
Pate's Grammar School	97.8	3
Sir Thomas Rich's School	97.7	3
The Cotswold School	82.4	4
Watford Grammar School for Boys	99.6	4
Watford Grammar School for Girls	97.9	4
Guru Nanak Sikh Voluntary Aided Secondary School	62.5	4
Lampton School	71.7	36
Castle Community College	47.5	14
Dartford Grammar School	81.7	5
Fulston Manor School	77.3	8
Highsted Grammar School	90.4	6
Orchards Academy	37.9	17
Sandwich Technology School	36.3	25
The Canterbury High School	30.1	26
The Hayesbrook School	57.4	4
The Westlands School	52.9	25
Heckmondwike Grammar School	82.2	7
Garforth Academy	59.1	16
Branston Community Academy	61.6	5
Caistor Grammar School	97.0	0
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	84.0	5
The Giles Academy	35.7	15
Denbigh High School	53.3	76
Fort Pitt Grammar School	58.5	8
The Rochester Grammar School	82.4	[1]—
Gosforth Academy	71.6	36
Healing School, A Specialist Science and Foundation College	83.7	7
Tollbar Academy	48.8	5
Northampton School for Boys	94.8	4
George Spencer Academy and Technology College	60.4	12
Redhill Academy	70.8	32
Arthur Mellows Village College	70.9	8
Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre	87.7	31
Chadwell Heath Academy	66.1	32
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	79.9	36
Wales High School	57.9	33
Arden	74.3	4
Tudor Grange Academy	72.8	[1]—

Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects in schools replaced by an academy in the last year of the school's existence for academies opened in 2010/11 and the number of those pupils who were eligible for free school meals, 2010

Percentage of entries in academic non-applied GCSE subjects in schools replaced by an academy in the last year of the school's existence for academies opened in 2010/11 and the number of those pupils who were eligible for free school meals, 2010

Academy name	*Percentage of GCSE entries*	*Number of FSM*
Holyrood Academy	81.9	17
Huish Episcopi Academy	78.0	16
Westcliff High School for Boys	99.9	[1]—
Kingsdale Foundation School	52.3	85
The Charter School	66.6	21
John Taylor High School	81.1	3
Hartismere High School	65.4	8
Samuel Ward Academy	63.6	12
Audenshaw School	70.9	16
Torquay Boys' Grammar School	91.5	3
Urmston Grammar School	96.3	[1]—
Hardenhuish School	78.0	6
The Compton School Specialist Technology College	78.6	32
Oldfield School	86.1	6
Sharnbrook Upper School	82.8	12
Bexley Grammar School	92.1	10
Ninestiles School, an Academy	46.7	50
Beaverwood School for Girls	76.9	14
Bishop Justus Church of England School	73.7	11
Coopers Technology College	66.3	33
Dr Challoner's Grammar School	97.9	0
Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe	96.7	4
Comberton Academy Trust	77.0	16
Linton Village College	75.9	5
Bodmin College	52.6	23
Kirk Hallam Community Technology and Sports College	81.0	19
The Ecclesbourne School	88.8	0
Colyton Grammar School	78.3	5
Kingsbridge Academy	77.8	9
Teign School	88.2	14
Teignmouth Community School	67.8	14
The Academy at Shotton Hall	34.0	50
Chelmsford County High School for girls	97.7	[1]—
Balcarras School	93.7	13
John Kyrle High School and Sixth Form Centre Academy	74.3	13
Wigmore School	55.1	6
Hockerill Anglo-European College	85.6	[1]—
The Broxbourne School	62.8	9
Herne Bay High School	63.3	22
Highworth Grammar School	96.2	4
Sir Roger Manwood's School	99.4	7
The Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School Federation	92.0	5
The Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School Federation	99.1	4
Tonbridge Grammar School	96.5	[1]—
Weald of Kent Grammar School	93.9	[1]—
Stockwell Park High School	45.8	125
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School	95.5	[1]—
Lancaster Girls' Grammar School	93.2	[1]—
Morley High School	72.1	23
De Aston School	55.3	11
West Grantham Academy Charles Read Academy	52.9	[1]—
West Grantham Academy St Hugh's	27.4	9
William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School	94.0	0
Rainham Academy	72.1	28
Oakgrove School	80.4	14
Wymondham College	82.2	[1]—
Harrogate Grammar School	69.8	7
Guilsborough School	82.5	10
Sponne School	75.3	6
The King's School (the Cathedral School)	85.6	[1]—
Devonport High School for Boys	97.9	3
Parkstone Grammar School	94.7	8
Kendrick School	99.8	0
Reading School	96.2	[1]—
Slough Grammar School	94.2	9
Whitburn Church of England Academy	81.3	15
Southend High School for Boys	92.4	4
Southend High School for Girls	90.6	[1]—
Westcliff High School for Girls	85.4	9
The de Ferrers Academy	66.1	25
St Joseph's College	88.7	[1]—
Debenham Church of England High School	97.5	4
The Ockenden Academy	44.7	33
Churston Ferrers Grammar School Academy	92.3	[1]—
Torquay Girls' Grammar School	100.0	8
Altrincham Grammar School for Boys	91.5	[1]—
Sale Grammar School	98.0	6
Wellacre Technology College	48.2	10
Wellington School	92.1	12
Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College	59.4	18
Wakefield City Academy	46.7	28
The Polesworth School	83.6	15
Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School	96.5	0
Lavington School	96.1	3
South Wilts Grammar School for Girls	98.4	[1]—
Prince Henry's High School	66.8	15

[1] Suppression due to small numbers.

Children in Care

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1002-06W, on children in care, from what source the information in the answer was derived; and what factors he took into account when compiling the information given in the answer. [48260]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The information provided about children who were reported as missing from their agreed placement was derived from the SSDA903 return which collects information on children looked after between 1 April and 31 March each year. This return is completed annually by 152 local authority social services departments in England. Information on looked after children is available in the Statistical First Release 'Children looked after by Local

Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010' which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

If an MP tables a parliamentary question which would cost the Department more than £800 to answer we may decline to respond on the grounds that the Department would incur a disproportionate cost. This roughly equates to one person incurring three and a half days work. Answering the first part of the question took around one and a half days.

The second part of the question asked about the type of placement from which looked after children went absent from. It was found, owing to the complex procedures required to extract and collate the data required, that producing the information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Children: Disability

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on mobility for disabled children in residential schools in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [47637]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold the information requested. It is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally.

Children: Television

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* communal and *(b)* solitary viewing of television by children and young people on their (i) levels of exercise, (ii) academic achievement and (iii) social engagement. [42687]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not made an assessment of the effect on children and young people of communal TV viewing compared to solitary viewing. It has undertaken analysis of the amount of time spent watching TV and use of sports facilities (a proxy for levels of exercise), academic achievement and social engagement. This analysis has been placed in the Libraries.

Citizenship: Curriculum

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on teaching of citizenship in the school curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [47582]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Government have launched a review of the national curriculum in January 2011. The new national curriculum will be based on a body of essential knowledge that children should be expected to acquire in key subjects during the course of their school career.

The review will consider whether each of the following subjects—art and design and technology, citizenship, geography, history, ICT, modern foreign languages and music—should be part of the national curriculum, with statutory programmes of study, and if so at which key stages.

Curriculum: Information and Communications Technology

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to the designation of information and communications technology as a core subject as part of his Department's curriculum review. [44385]

Mr Gibb: Our intention is to produce a new slimmed down national curriculum which sets out the essential knowledge that all children should acquire, and gives teachers greater flexibility to decide how to teach this most effectively and to design a wider school curriculum that best meets the needs of their pupils.

We have announced that the statutory core subjects—English, mathematics and science—will remain compulsory at all four key stages in future, along with physical education. For all other subjects, we believe it is right that there should be a debate about whether they should remain part of the national curriculum, with statutory programmes of study, or whether it should be for schools to decide the content of their courses in those subjects as well as the way they should be taught. The Government's national curriculum review panels are currently seeking views on these issues as part of the call for evidence for the review, and we will announce our proposals early next year. At that point there will be a further period of consultation before final decisions are taken.

Departmental Consultants

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on consultancy since May 2010. [35827]

Tim Loughton: The departmental spend on consultants between May 2010 and February 2011 (latest available figures) is £19,654,848. The equivalent figure between May 2009 and February 2010 was £43,087,119.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the change in the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of services provided by his Department and its predecessors which have been contracted out to (a) the third sector and (b) the private sector between January 2005 and December 2010. [48153]

Tim Loughton: To estimate the volume and monetary value of contractual and spend information for third sector and private sector suppliers from historical records could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [49308]

Tim Loughton: Information for the Department is set out in the following table:

	Number	Cost to Department (£ million)
2005-06	118	12.6
2006-07	84	8.3
2007-08	58	5.5
2008-09	38	3.7
2009-10	101	14.8
2010-11	61	5.0

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45084]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not sold and leased back any assets over the past 12 months.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last year for which figures are available. [37244]

Tim Loughton: The Department has produced no branded drinks coasters.

Departmental Public Bodies

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Training and Development Agency for Schools. [48627]

Mr Gibb: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Department is committed to the Government's ambitions to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs. It is too soon to be absolutely specific or able to provide a detailed breakdown of the savings that will be achieved by closing the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). Across the spending review period, the savings from closing the TDA will contribute to the overall anticipated departmental savings of up to £673 million. I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1257W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

This is our best current estimate of planned net savings to emerge from these reforms and is dependent upon the individual timetables for implementation—the closure of the TDA requires the Education Bill.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Teachers TV Board of Governors. [48628]

Tim Loughton: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I estimate net overall administrative savings from the abolition of the Teachers TV Board of Governors over the spending review period of £150,000, based on the three years remaining on the contract.

This is our best current estimate of planned net savings to emerge from these reforms, and is dependent upon the individual timetables for implementation—many of which require the Public Bodies Bill and subsequent secondary legislation.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services. [48632]

Mr Gibb: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster-General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Department is committed to the Government's ambitions to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs. It is too soon to be absolutely specific or to provide a detailed breakdown of the savings that will be achieved by withdrawing non-departmental public body (NDPB) status from the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services. Across the spending review period, the savings from making these changes will contribute to the overall anticipated departmental savings of up to £673 million. I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1257W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

This is our best current estimate of planned net savings to emerge from these reforms and is dependent upon the individual timetables for implementation.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Children's Workforce Development Council. [48634]

Mr Gibb: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Department is committed to the Government's ambitions to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs. It is too soon to be specific or provide a detailed breakdown of the savings that will be achieved by withdrawing non-departmental public body (NDPB) status from the Children's Workforce Development Council. Across the spending review period, the savings from making these changes will contribute to the overall anticipated departmental savings of up to £673 million. I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1257W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency. [48635]

Tim Loughton: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I estimate net overall administrative savings from the abolition of BECTA over the spending review period of £210 million.

Departmental Recruitment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants his Department has recruited during the period of the civil service recruitment freeze. [48698]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 March 2011]*: Since the civil service recruitment freeze, the Department has recruited 16 people who are new to the civil service and 106 people from other Government Departments who were already civil servants. Over the same period, 163 people left the Department.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49183]

Tim Loughton: Since April 2010, the number of the approved voluntary releases for staff in the Department is 141. These releases are part of continuing to deliver headcount reductions across the Department and were offered on voluntary flexible or approved terms, meaning the Department could fund these releases at a considerably lower cost to the public purse.

Departmental Written Questions

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of parliamentary questions for written answer were answered by his Department *(a)* within one week of, *(b)* within two weeks of, *(c)* within three weeks of, *(d)* within four weeks of, *(e)* within five weeks of and *(f)* more than five weeks after the date on which they were set down for answer since May 2010. [49639]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is shown in the following tables. The first table provides a breakdown on the number of questions answered up until 17 February 2011. The second table provides a breakdown of the number of questions answered since 28 February 2011.

A technical error occurred to the IT system that supports the processing of parliamentary questions. This resulted in a delay to written answers issued prior to the February recess.

PQs answered May 2010 to 17 February 2011

	Number answered	*Percentage*
Within 1 week	435	15
Within 2 weeks	1,075	39
Within 3 weeks	1,468	53
Within 4 weeks	1,775	64
Within 5 weeks	2,041	74
Six weeks after date set for answer	2,772	100

The Department has answered 731 (26%) written questions at least six weeks after the date on which they were set down for answer between May 2010 and 17 February 2011.

PQs answered 28 February 2011 to 24 March 2011

	Number answered	*Percentage*
Within 1 week	174	56
Within 2 weeks	269	86
Within 3 weeks	305	97
Within 4 weeks	313	100

Since the House returned on 28 February 2011 the Department has answered over 800 questions.

Education: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the UK Resilience Programme in developing children's values. [48470]

Mr Gibb: The Department is concluding its evaluation of the UK Resilience programme, a pilot which started in September 2007. It was aimed at Year 7 pupils in 22 secondary schools across three local authorities: Hertfordshire, Manchester and South Tyneside. We expect that the final report from the evaluation will be published shortly. This will build on interim evaluation reports published in 2009 and 2010.

Education: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Education Council's conclusions on the role of education and training in the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, how often the UK will be required to report progress in implementing its national reform programme; and what assessment he has made of the *(a)* burdens and *(b)* costs attributable to this measure. [47011]

Mr Gibb: As part of the Europe 2020 strategy, the UK and other EU member states submit a national reform programme in April each year. This includes a report on the role of education and training in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. The Department has made no specific assessment of the burdens and costs of this exercise. However, the resources required are met from within the Department's existing budget.

Education: VAT

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the level of value added tax receipts from *(a)* schools and *(b)* sixth form colleges in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [37614]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

The provision of free education is not a business activity for VAT purposes, and therefore is not subject to VAT. Education provided in fee-paying schools is exempt from VAT. However, schools and sixth form colleges, in common with everyone else, are liable to pay VAT on the taxable goods and services they purchase.

Schools in the state sector are currently funded for the VAT they pay on their purchases either through up-front central Government funding or, in the case of local authority controlled schools, through a statutory refund scheme. The forthcoming Finance Bill will make similar provision for the refund of VAT to academy schools.

English Baccalaureate

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had on the introduction of a certificated English Baccalaureate qualification. [49535]

Mr Gibb: The English Baccalaureate recognises pupils' performance in GCSEs and iGCSEs. It is not a qualification itself. The Secretary of State for Education has not held any recent discussions on certification of the English Baccalaureate. Officials have been in contact with a range of interested parties.

Free School Meals: Totnes

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of pupils in *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* South Devon and *(c)* England qualify for free school meals; [47527]

(2) how many children in *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* South Devon, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England received (i) free school meals and (ii) education maintenance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [47599]

Mr Gibb: The number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the tables. The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged 5 to 15.

It is not known how many pupils are eligible for free school meals but do not claim.

The question of how many children in Totnes constituency, south Devon, the south-west and England received EMA is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend the Member for Totnes with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special[1] schools: school meal arrangements[4,5] as at January 2010 in Totnes parliamentary constituency, Devon local authority, south-west Government office region and England

	Totnes parliamentary constituency			Devon local authority		
	Number on roll[3,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[3,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Maintained nursery and maintained primary[1]	5,320	780	14.6	49,790	5,990	12.0
State-funded secondary[1,2]	5,830	730	12.5	37,690	3,940	10.4
Special[1]	60	20	29.5	770	170	21.9

	South-west Government office region			England		
	Number on roll[3,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[3,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Maintained nursery and maintained primary[1]	357,850	47,470	13.3	3,838,680	711,410	18.5
State-funded secondary[1,2]	281,730	29,460	10.5	2,864,350	441,140	15.4

	South-west Government office region			England		
	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Special[3]	6,570	1,970	29.9	78,330	27,330	34.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15 (age as at 31 August 2009).
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 24 March 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ47599 that asked:

"How many children in (a) Totnes constituency, (b) South Devon, (c) the South West and (d) England received (i) free school meals and (ii) education maintenance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available."

The Department of Education has responded to you regarding the first part of your question. I have been asked to provide a reply to the latter part of your question regarding how many children in Totnes constituency, South Devon, the South West and England have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in the latest period for which figures are available.

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available for upper tier local authorities but not by constituency or by local authority ward.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The table below shows take-up as at 28 February 2011.

	Number
Devon	8,652
South West	57,693
England	628,751

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

GCSE

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each GCSE and GCSE equivalent qualification which was available between 1995 to 2010; and for each such year what the *(a)* GCSE equivalent for league table purposes was and *(b)* how many (i) entries for (ii) passes and (iii) passes at grades A* to C there were for each such qualification. [32407]

Mr Gibb: Data for 2010 have been placed in the House Libraries, data for other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of students who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for GCSE examinations in (i) English language, (ii) mathematics, (iii) two sciences, (iv) a foreign language, (v) a humanities subject and (vi) all of these subjects in each year since 1997. [38005]

Mr Gibb: The available information is given in the following table.

Number of GCSE[1] entries grades by free school meal eligibility. Years: 2009 (final data) to 2010 (amended data). Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals		Pupils not eligible for free school meals		All pupils[1]	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
All pupils	74,419	77,324	504,377	500,640	578,840	578,063
GCSE entries by subject						
English						
Number	67,385	71,235	487,493	486,623	554,912	557,951
Percentage of pupils	90.5	92.1	96.7	97.2	95.9	96.5
Mathematics						
Number	68,168	71,932	489,495	488,707	557,700	560,732
Percentage of pupils	91.6	93.0	97.0	97.6	96.3	97.0
At least two sciences[2]						
Number	33,138	33,039	338,876	332,950	372,027	366,025
Percentage of pupils	44.5	42.7	67.2	66.5	64.3	63.3

Number of GCSE[1] entries grades by free school meal eligibility. Years: 2009 (final data) to 2010 (amended data). Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*		*All pupils[2]*	
	2009	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
Humanities[3]						
Number	21,911	22,760	255,981	253,164	277,903	275,956
Percentage of pupils	29.4	29.4	50.8	50.6	48.0	47.7
Modern Languages						
Number	19,044	18,688	220,236	214,696	239,293	233,420
Percentage of pupils	25.6	24.2	43.7	42.9	41.3	40.4
All of the above subjects						
Number	6,332	6,326	122,690	121,037	129,024	127,374
Percentage of pupils	8.5	8.2	24.3	24.2	22.3	22.0

[1] Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] Includes pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

[3] Pupils who were entered for GCSEs in either Double award Science, both Core Science (or Single) Science and Additional Science, or in at least two of the following GCSEs: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Science.

[4] Pupils who were entered for GCSE in History, Geography or both subjects. There is no set definition of 'Humanities', this definition is in line with the proposed English Baccalaureate.

[5] Pupils who were entered for GCSE in at least one of the following subjects: French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian.

Source:
National Pupil Database

The additional data are not currently available. The Department will be conducting new analysis to prepare the data from 2003 and will place a copy in the House Libraries once it has been completed. However, pupil level characteristics data are not available before 2002.

National Citizen Service: Walthamstow

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects the National Citizen Service pilot project to be implemented in Walthamstow constituency; and how many places he expects the project to provide in that constituency. [15861]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 11 October 2011]:* NCS pilots are operating in a number of locations across England in summer 2011. The Football League Trust, one of the 12 pilot providers, will be delivering 100 places in the borough of Waltham Forest, which includes Walthamstow.

Further information on the NCS pilots can be found at:

www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcitizenservice

Ofsted: Disclosure of Information

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the policy of Ofsted is on disclosing to police forces on request information on the names and addresses of children's homes in a police force area; and if he will make a statement. [47657]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 March 2011:

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted does not have any express powers to share information with police forces in these circumstances. The Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010, which came into force on 1 October 2010, make it clear that Ofsted can routinely share certain information relating to children's homes, including their addresses, only with local authorities. However, if the police require information about the location of a children's home for a specific reason, for example relating to a particular setting where a child or children's safety may be an issue, Ofsted will always provide information to the local police force and do so rapidly.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Public Appointments: Pay

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35419]

Tim Loughton: Information on key public appointments made since May 2010 is published in individual press releases. These should include information on remuneration. Press releases are available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews

In addition, information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for the 2010-11 period will be published in due course.

Information on the Department's public appointments and payment terms has been placed in the House Libraries.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will permit children with at least 95% attendance at school to take a week or less holiday during term-time without incurring a financial penalty. [35928]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* Tackling absenteeism in schools is a crucial part of the Government's commitment to improving discipline, raising standards and ensuring every child can meet their potential. There is clear evidence that any absence from school can have an impact on pupils' attainment. The aim should, therefore, be 100% attendance in school, except for reasons of illness or special circumstances such as the inflexibility of leave patterns for parents which make it impossible to take family holidays outside of term time, this is provided for under the pupil registration regulations.

Qualifications, Curriculum and Development Authority

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects the tendering process to begin for functions performed by the Qualifications, Curriculum and Development Authority; and if he will make a statement. [48094]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 March 2911]:* We are in the process of reducing the number of arm's length bodies (ALBs) and improving accountability. That process involves reviewing the functions carried out by each ALB and, for those functions that will continue, determining the most appropriate method of delivery. In most cases, delivery will be through new Executive agencies which are more directly accountable within the Department. The review of QCDA's functions has been completed and there are no plans to put QCDA's functions out to tender commercially.

In terms of the commercial contracts which underpin each of the continuing functions, we are currently assessing each existing contract to determine the necessary action. This could be to terminate, novate, extend or re-tender, depending on the requirements of the Executive agency and the position of the contract. The national curriculum testing contract has already gone through the review process and is currently part of an *Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)* tender exercise which aims to award a new one year contract (with the option to extend for a further year) for the testing service requirements.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when he last met representatives of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Development Authority to discuss the transition of that body's responsibilities; [48096]

(2) when he last met representatives of the Public and Commercial Services Union to discuss redundancies that will result from the abolition of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Development Authority; and what his most recent estimate is of the number of employees who will be *(a)* transferred to other bodies and *(b)* made redundant. [48097]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* Responsibility for closing and transferring the functions of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) rests with me, as the Minister of State with responsibility for schools. I met a cross-section of QCDA staff working on statutory assessment and testing on 16 March 2011. We discussed current delivery as well as plans to establish the Standards and Testing Agency.

Neither the Secretary of State for Education nor Ministers have met with the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union. However, officials in the Department and staff in QCDA with responsibility for the transition are now engaged in consultation as part of a voluntary redundancy scheme. Where functions are transferring, individuals who work predominantly on those functions will have a right to transfer to the Department under the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector (COSOP). We will provide further detail as to the number of redundancies and transfers once members of staff, through the consultation process, have first been informed as to whether or not they will transfer.

Religion: GCSE

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of students who took GCSE examinations in religious education, religious studies or similar subjects also took GCSE examinations in history or geography in the academic year 2009-10. [45580]

Mr Gibb: In the academic year 2009-10, the percentage of pupils who took GCSE Religious Education, Religious Studies or similar subjects who also took GCSE History or GCSE Geography was 15.9%.

This figure covers pupils at the end of key stage 4 in all schools (including independent schools as well as hospital schools and pupil referral units) and is derived from the 2010 school and college performance tables.

Schools: Admissions

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has any plans to revise the school admissions code. [47781]

Mr Gibb: In November 2010 we published the White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching" which announced our intention to review the School Admissions and Appeals Codes, with a view to delivering a simpler, more streamlined admissions process.

We want to deliver a process that removes unnecessary burdens on schools and other admission authorities, as well as helping parents better understand and navigate the admissions system. The current codes are 130 pages long, and contain more than 660 mandatory requirements.

We will shortly launch a national consultation so that parents and other stakeholders can respond to our proposals to enable a simpler, fairer and more transparent admissions framework.

Schools: Discipline

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve school discipline in *(a)* Portsmouth South constituency and *(b)* England. [39596]

Mr Gibb: Raising standards of behaviour in our schools is a key priority for the coalition Government. It goes to the root of how we raise standards, and it lies at the heart of our determination to close the attainment gap between those from poor and wealthier backgrounds.

The Education Bill sets out reforms to tackle bad behaviour, making it easier to impose no notice detentions, extending search powers for items which disrupt teaching, and making it easier for heads to expel violent or persistently disruptive pupils.

For these reforms to work it is important that teachers understand what the law says and know that the Government is on their side. That is why the Government are revising and reissuing the whole suite of behaviour guidance, which currently runs to over 700 pages. The guidance will be reduced to a length that busy teachers can actually read and make it clear what schools have to do, should do, and can choose to do.

Taken together, these measures will help to improve behaviour in schools in the hon. Gentleman's constituency and across the country.

Schools: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date he expects to introduce a national funding formula for individual schools. [48815]

Mr Gibb: In our White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" we said our long-term aim was to move to a national funding formula. We will publish a consultation this spring on the merits of moving to such a formula, the right time to begin the transition to that formula, the transitional arrangements necessary to ensure that schools and local authorities do not suffer undue turbulence, and the factors to take into account in order to assess the needs of pupils for funding purposes.

School Sports

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in Bradford South constituency will be affected by the decision to end school sport partnerships. [24021]

Tim Loughton: All schools across the country, including those in the Bradford South constituency, will benefit from the planned changes in the Government's approach to school sport. Funding of £47 million has just been paid to school sport partnerships to fund their work up until the end of the summer term 2011. This is on top of £71 million which was paid to partnerships in October last year. In addition, further new funding of £65 million will be paid to secondary schools, including those in Bradford South, over the next two academic years. This will pay for the release of a PE teacher for one day a week to work with local primary schools to improve provision for competitive sport in their own school and in local primary schools.

Furthermore, at the Sports Colleges Conference in Telford in February, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced outline plans for a network of school games organisers from September 2011. These organisers will be funded by the Department of Health and Sport England for three days a week to help schools sign up for the nationwide school games. Further details will be announced shortly.

Taken together, this package of funding will enable schools to maximise the opportunities for competitive sport that they provide for their pupils.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from local authorities on planned changes in his Department's expenditure on school sport. [27404]

Tim Loughton: We have received no representations direct from local authorities specifically about changes in funding for school sport.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for monitoring and evaluation of future school sport partnerships. [36342]

Tim Loughton: The Department is not funding school sport partnerships after this school year, and therefore we have no plans to monitor or evaluate them in future. Instead, the Government will make available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sports. This funding will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra and inter-school competition.

We have also lifted the previous Administration's requirements on schools to meet national targets, to monitor all pupils in all schools, and to complete an annual survey, as we think these were unnecessarily burdensome. Freeing schools from these requirements will give them more time to organise competitive sport for all pupils.

Science: GCSE

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of people resident in the Peterborough local education authority area have been entered for triple science GCSEs since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [46863]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The number and percentage of pupils entered for physics, chemistry and biology GCSEs who attend schools in Peterborough local authority we give in the following table. Figures for the other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of pupils entered for triple science GCSEs	*Percentage of pupils entered for triple science GCSEs (percentage)*
2001	39	2
2004	24	1
2007	103	5
2010	435	20

Note:

1. Figures prior to 2005 relate to 15 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).

2. Figures from 2007 onwards relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in all schools.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements are in place in his Department to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48211]

Tim Loughton: The Department is committed to the well-being of its employees. It has a number of procedures in place to reduce stress at work, and regularly updates its Workforce Well-Being policies and practices for tackling sickness absence, including stress experienced in the workplace, and makes them available to staff on the Department's intranet.

The Department's policies, guidance and management information systems are designed for early identification of work-related stress to help managers and individuals take the appropriate action quickly, and where appropriate, make use of the Department's professional occupational health providers.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of convergence for *(a)* Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills and *(b)* Qualified Teacher status. [35001]

Mr Gibb: Professor Wolf, as part of her review of vocational education, is looking at work force issues including the role of QTLS-holding teachers in schools. We will consider the matter further when we have received Professor Wolf's report in the spring.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to enable teachers with Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status to teach vocational subjects in schools at the same salary level as teachers with Qualified Teacher status. [35002]

Mr Gibb: Following her review of vocational education, Professor Wolf recommended that Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status should be recognised in schools for the delivery of vocational education. The Secretary of State for Education immediately accepted this recommendation.

We will consult fully on any amendments to the existing regulations and give schools adequate notice of any legislative changes. QTLS holders should be able to teach vocational subjects in schools as soon as possible subject to statutory requirements and parliamentary process.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of girls *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care aged between 13 and 19 gave birth in each of the last 10 years. [48501]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of looked-after girls who are mothers is available in table A5 of the Department's Statistical First Release, Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2010. This publication is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

The earliest year for which this information is available is 2005. The percentage of looked-after girls aged between 13 and 19 who are mothers, for the year 2005 to 2010 is included in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of girls in care aged between 13 to 19 who gave birth during the year ending 31 March 2005-10, England

	Percentage
2005	3
2006	3
2007	3
2008	3
2009	3
2010	3

Notes:
1. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Source:
SSDA903.

Information on the proportion of girls not in care who gave birth is not available. Estimates for all girls aged 14 to 19 who have given birth have been provided by the Office for National Statistics, and are shown in table 2. Please note that comparable information for girls aged 13 to 19 is not available.

Table 2: Estimated women and mothers aged 14 to 19, England and Wales

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Female population aged 14 to 19 inclusive (from ONS mid-year population estimates)	2,045,590	2,049,770	2,050,620	2,039,520	2,024,420
Estimated number of women aged 14 to 19 who have had at least one live birth	45,600	44,330	44,150	43,130	42,630
Percentage of women aged 14 to 19 who have had at least one live birth	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1

Notes:
1. Estimates of the number of women who have had at least one live birth are from an ONS birth order model that combines data from birth registrations with survey data on fertility histories to estimate birth order, and then combines these with population estimates to produce the female population by parity.
2. The percentage of women in a particular age group who have had at least one live birth (i.e. are mothers) is not the same as a birth rate for that age group, which would show the proportion of women who give birth in a specific calendar year.
3. Because the percentage of women with at least one birth increases with age, any comparison of the figures above with figures for females in care may be affected if the female population in care aged 14-19 has a different age structure from the overall female population aged 14-19.
4. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Fertility and Family Analysis Unit, Office for National Statistics.

UK Youth Parliament

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department provided to the UK Youth Parliament in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; how much it plans to make available to the UK Youth Parliament in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; what further plans he has for funding allocations to arrangements for the UK Youth Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [47279]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* In 2009-10 and 2010-11 grants of £350,000 and £500,000 respectively were provided to support UK Youth Parliament activities from the Department's Children, Young People and Families Grant.

The Government will provide continuing support into 2011-12 to the UK Youth Parliament. Following a limited competitive bidding exercise the Department for Education proposes to award a grant of £335,000 to the British Youth Council to continue the UK Youth Parliament's key functions and sustain its independence and distinct identity for six months from April 2011. This will secure continued support for the work of the 600 young people who are Members of the Youth Parliament or their Deputies. In the meantime, a short-term grant of £65,000 will be offered to the current host charity for the UK Youth Parliament, Democracy for Young People Ltd, to enable it to deliver a smooth transition. The Government are considering what arrangements would be appropriate to sustain the UK Youth Parliament in the longer term. I am pleased that the Speaker of the House of Commons has confirmed continuing support for the UK Youth Parliament in 2011-12 including for the annual debate in the Commons chamber.

Giving young people a voice in public decisions which affect them is a key principle underpinning the Government's youth policy. Members of the UK Youth Parliament make a valuable contribution to making the voices of young people heard within formal democratic processes and these measures will ensure that their work can continue.

Vocational Education

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the letter of 9 September 2010 to Professor Alison Wolf, whether she has delivered to him an interim report on her review of vocational education; and if he will publish the interim report. [36238]

Mr Gibb: The Wolf Review of Vocational Education reported on 3 March 2011. The Government are very grateful to Professor Wolf for such a valuable piece of work. We are now considering her recommendations and will publish a formal response this spring.

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many vocational qualifications were available at level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 and equivalents to young people in schools and colleges in England in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [47790]

Mr Gibb: For the academic year 1996/97 the number of available vocational qualifications for levels 1, 2 and 3 in schools and colleges was:

	Number
Level 1	328
Level 2	965
Level 3	961

The total for the academic year was 2,254.

For the academic year 2009/10 the number of available vocational qualifications for levels 1, 2 and 3 in schools and colleges approved under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 was:

	Number
Level 1	1,114
Level 2	2,446
Level 3	2,060

The total for the year was 5,620.

The 2009/10 data are affected by the transition of qualifications from the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). This means that some qualifications may appear in the data twice, once under the NQF and once under the QCF. It is estimated that this duplication may have inflated the figures for 2009/10 by around 10%.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aimhigher Programme

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many potential students the Aimhigher programme reached in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [49895]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

Apprentices: Finance

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to increasing funding for apprenticeships in the process and manufacturing sector. [49814]

Mr Hayes: As part of Budget 2011, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a £180 million package for 50,000 extra apprenticeship places, including 10,000 advanced level and higher apprenticeships targeted at smaller employers. This means that this Government will deliver at least 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years, compared to the previous Government's plans.

Part of this package was developed as an outcome of the growth review and although it is aimed at all business sectors, the additional advanced and higher level places are expected to particularly benefit the advanced manufacturing industry and its supply chain.

Arms Trade: Exports

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many licences were granted for the export of controlled goods to Saudi Arabia where the Saudi Arabian National Guard was the end user in each year since 2007. [49823]

Mr Prisk: Information provided in export licence applications (such as names of end users and third parties) is confidential. However, the Government publish general information on export licences in the annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (eg military, other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Currently this includes information up to 30 September 2010. Information covering 1 October to 31 December 2010 will be published in April 2011.

Business: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with how many business organisations in *(a)* Reading West constituency, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Berkshire his Department has had discussions since his appointment. [46625]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is not held centrally within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Business Link South East has advised that in the period May 2010 to the end of February 2011 they provided assistance (via meetings, telephone calls or electronic activity—e.g. meaningful website usage) to the following number of unique businesses.

Area	*Number of businesses assisted*
Berkshire	8,313
Reading	1,529

Business Closures

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of businesses which have failed in each of the last three years in circumstances directly attributable to the actions of officials in Government Departments. [49109]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* Official Statistics published by the Office for National Statistics show that the total number of enterprise deaths in the last three years are 223,600 in 2007, 221,185 in 2008 and 279,180 in 2009. Data for 2010 are due for publication later this year.

No information is held on the direct attributable cause of business failure.

Business: North East England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with how many business organisations in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency his Department has had discussions since his appointment. [47594]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is not held centrally within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Business Link North East has advised that in the period May 2010 to the end of February 2011, they provided assistance (via meetings, telephone calls or electronic activity e.g. meaningful website usage) to the following number of unique businesses.

Area	*Number of businesses assisted*
North East	17,896
Teesside (Tees Valley)	3,893
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	416

Regulation

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed in businesses with fewer than 10 employees excluding sole proprietors. [48218]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold information on the number of men and women employed in businesses with fewer than 10 employees. We estimate that, in total, there are 3,764,000 employees within businesses with fewer than 10 employees in the UK.

The Office for National Statistics produces official statistics on employees, but is unable at present to produce a breakdown by gender and business size.

Departmental Offices

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 736W, on departmental offices, what further discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the scope for sharing his Department's proposed regional offices with that Department. [48844]

Mr Prisk: No further discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) have taken place on this issue. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) teams are being located wherever possible in BIS or BIS agency locations, in order to achieve maximum cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency as follows:

With the Skills Funding Agency in Birmingham, Bristol, Gateshead and Manchester.

In a number of locations, the BIS teams will continue to be based in the former Government office locations (until BIS estate is available) in Cambridge, Guildford, Leeds and Nottingham.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49190]

Mr Davey: Since April 2010, 251 people have been offered voluntary redundancy, This is part of an ongoing scheme to reduce the Department's administrative costs in line with its budget for the comprehensive spending review period. The number who leave the Department under this scheme will depend on how many accept their offers.

Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Vale of Glamorgan (Alun Cairns) of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 433W, on business: regulations, how many of the regulations were revoked in the period between 4 and 28 February 2011. [49031]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 March 2011]*: The Protection of Freedoms Bill includes provision to repeal the following powers of entry:

Article 22 of the Distribution of German Enemy Property (No. 1) Order 1950

Regulation 24(6) of the Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1995.

The Bill was presented to Parliament on 11 February.

In addition, the three Companies Fees regulations:

The Registrar of Companies (Fees)(Companies, Overseas Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships)(Amendment) Regulations 2011

The Registrar of Companies (Fees)(Limited Partnerships)(Amendment) Regulations 2011

The Registrar of Companies (Fees)(European Economic Interest Grouping) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

which were laid before Parliament on 14 February revise the existing provisions from 6 April with the result of £1.2 million annual savings for businesses.

Education: English Language

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses were asylum seekers in each of the last 10 years; [48858]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of asylum seekers with children who receive full fee remission on the cost of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [48992]

Mr Hayes: We do not explicitly record in the system learners who are asylum seekers. We do, however, collect information on why a learner has received fee remission for any Government funded learning they undertake. A category within this variable is available for providers to record a claim for an asylum seeker who is eligible for funding and is also in receipt of the equivalent of an income-based state benefit.

From those data we can provide some information on learners who are in receipt of full fee remission through being an asylum seeker in receipt of the equivalent of an income-based state benefit. This should be used with caution given it neither provides an accurate picture about the level of learners who are asylum seekers, nor what other learning or benefit entitlements that learner may have.

The following table shows the number of adults participating on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course who received full fee remission due to being an asylum seeker eligible for funding and being in receipt of the equivalent of an income-based state benefit.

Data are shown from 2005/06, the earliest year for which we have comparable data to 2009/10, the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Number of adults (19+) participating on ESOL courses who were in receipt of full fee-remission due to being an asylum seeker eligible for funding and in receipt of the equivalent of an income-based state benefit, 2005/06 to 2009/10 (near-final data)

	Total
2005/06	9,450
2006/07	7,390
2007/08	6,780
2008/09[1]	7,230
2009/10[1] (Near-final)	7,020

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined. More information on demand led funding is available at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:

1. These data cover participation in Learner Responsive, apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further education/Learner Responsive provision includes general further education colleges including tertiary, sixth form colleges—agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and design colleges, specialist colleges and external institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Information is not collected on the number of asylum seekers with children studying ESOL courses.

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Employment Agencies: Training

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who are no longer considered unemployed by virtue of their acceptance on training schemes secured via private employment agencies in the last 12 months. [48911]

Mr Hayes: Information on the number of learners on training schemes secured via private employment agencies is not collected centrally.

Employment: EU Law

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of flexibility in the UK labour market; and if he will make it his policy to maintain such flexibility in future negotiations on EU legislation. [49467]

Mr Davey: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its seminal Job Study Review in 2006 identified the UK as a "successful employment performer". It also identified the UK as having one of the least onerous employment regulation systems. But perceptions can matter as much as facts or figures. We must make it clear that Britain is open for business and that employers need not fear taking on employees. The Government have just announced a number of measures to remove barriers to growth which contribute to the ongoing employment law review. The Government will also continue working to ensure that EU measures do not stifle UK labour market flexibility.

English Language: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what funding his Department provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* London in each of the last five years; [49220]

(2) how many students were enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets in each of the last five years; [49221]

(3) how many students there are enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* London; [49222]

(4) what plans he has for future funding of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* London. [49223]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows participation on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in London, Tower Hamlets local education authority and Bethnal Green and Bow parliamentary constituency for 2005/06 to 2009/10.

Table 1: ESOL participation by geography, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*[1]	*2009/10*[1] *(near-final)*
London	82,870	76,930	83,700	79,140	76,060
Tower Hamlets local education authority	3,840	3,540	4,160	4,040	3,640
Bethnal Green and Bow constituency	1,940	1,980	2,400	2,310	1,990

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined. More information on demand led funding is available at:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:
1. These data cover participation In Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on historical ESOL funding at the local geography level is not available. However, the Skills Funding Agency publish information on adult (19 years +) allocations made to individual colleges, providers and employers for each academic year available at the following link:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/programmes/

From August 2011, full Government funding will be provided for unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, and this will include ESOL courses where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

Eligibility for full or part public funded ESOL provision is set out in the Skills Funding Agency's (SFA) learner eligibility criteria, which are based on a person's ordinary residence. For funding purposes, the SFA regards as ordinarily resident any person who habitually, normally and lawfully resides from choice and for a settled purpose in England. Full learner eligibility guidance can be found on the Skills Funding Agency and Young People's Learning Agency website:

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/agency-leg2010-11-version1aon12-04-2010.pdf

As autonomous bodies, further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for their own fees policies. We have introduced increased freedoms and flexibilities for FE colleges and providers providing them with increased flexibility to respond to the needs of their communities.

English Language: Greater Manchester

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has for future funding of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* Bolton and *(c)* Greater Manchester; [49593]

(2) how much funding his Department has provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* Bolton borough and *(c)* Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [49594]

Mr Hayes: Information on historical ESOL broken down by geography is not available. However, the Skills Funding Agency publish information on adult (19 years +) allocations made to individual colleges, providers and employers for each academic year available at the following link:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/programmes/

From August 2011, full Government funding will be provided for unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance of in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, and this will include ESOL courses where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

Eligibility for full or part public funded ESOL provision is set out in the Skills Funding Agency's learner eligibility criteria, which are based on a person's ordinary residence. For funding purposes, the Agency regards as ordinarily resident any person who habitually, normally and lawfully resides from choice and for a settled purpose in England. Full learner eligibility guidance can be found on the Skills Funding Agency and Young People's Learning Agency website:

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/agency-leg2010-11-version1aon12-04-2010.pdf

As autonomous bodies, FE colleges and training providers are responsible for their own fees policies. We have introduced increased freedoms and flexibilities for

FE colleges and providers providing them with increased flexibility to respond to the needs of their communities.

Table 1 as follows shows participation on English for speakers of other languages courses in Bolton South East parliamentary constituency, Bolton local education authority and Manchester local education authority for 2005/06 to 2009/10. We only hold information at region, local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels of geography, therefore data for Greater Manchester are not presented.

Table 1: ESOL participation by geography, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09[1]	2009/10 (near-final)
Bolton south east constituency	1,090	670	770	750	590
Bolton local education authority	1,910	1,170	1,270	1,250	1,060
Manchester local education authority	6,610	4,640	3,430	3,400	2,590

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined. More information on demand led funding is available at:

Notes:

1. These data cover participation In Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision Includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest ten.
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Enterprise Zones

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements he has put in place for areas to apply for enterprise zone status; and if he will make a statement. [49111]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* Budget 2011 announced that Government would establish 21 new Enterprise Zones in Local Enterprise Partnership areas in England. The Budget named the first 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships that would benefit from Enterprise Zones. A competition for a further 10 Enterprise Zones in the remaining partnership areas was also announced.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I will write shortly to Local Enterprise Partnerships with a prospectus for Enterprise Zones which sets out the appropriate application process.

Family Breakdown

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what policy measures he has introduced since his appointment which reduce the incidence of family breakdown; and if he will make a statement. [48892]

Mr Davey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 864W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller).

Further Education: Fees and Charges

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to offer student loans to cover the cost of fees charged by further education institutions. [47331]

Mr Hayes: Government backed fee loans will be introduced from 2013/14 for those aged 24 and over to undertake qualifications at Level 3 and above.

The loans will not be mean-tested and will be paid directly to the further education institution to meet up-front fee costs in the same way as higher education fee loans.

We are considering how loans will be implemented, consulting with a stakeholder reference group.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what level of capitalisation he expects the Green Investment Bank to receive from the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in the first four years of its existence. [48594]

Mr Prisk: The initial capitalisation of the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be £3 billion. This is £2 billion funding on top of £1 billion of departmental funding already announced. There are no current plans to attract private sector capital for the GIB. We expect the public sector capital to leverage an additional £15 billion of investments in green infrastructure by 2014-15.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the Green Investment Bank issuing bonds within the next five financial years. [49300]

Mr Prisk: Ministers will capitalise the Green Investment Bank (GIB) with £3 billion.

With these resources, the GIB will not need to borrow in this spending review (SR) period. GIB borrowing in this SR would have added to net public sector debt and would not be consistent with the Government's fiscal consolidation plans.

However, the ambition is to grow the GIB over time. Government will therefore enable the GIB to have borrowing powers from 2015-16 and once the target for debt to be falling as percentage of GDP has been met. The precise borrowing mechanism is still being worked out and we intend to say more in May.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the Green Investment Bank sourcing capital from small investors through dedicated individual savings accounts in the next five financial years. [49301]

Mr Prisk: Retail deposits will not be an initial source of funding for the Green Investment Bank. Government are separately considering the case for taking further action to promote green individual saving accounts (ISAs.)

Higher Education: Finance

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Open University and *(b)* other providers of part-time higher education on future funding for part-time higher education students in England; and if he will make a statement. [48862]

Mr Willetts: I have had a number of discussions with the Open University and other institutions about our package of reforms and its impact on part time students. From 2012/13 we propose that part-time students will be able to have access to loans to pay their tuition costs provided they are studying at publicly-funded institutions and at an intensity rate of at least 25%. We also propose that tuition costs for part-time students will be capped at a level which will be set pro-rata to the maximum amount chargeable to full-time students. These measures will help deliver the Government's intention that part-time students are treated similarly to full-time students for tuition.

ICT: Training

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve skills in IT across the workforce. [49280]

Mr Hayes: e-skills UK is the sector skills council for business and information technology, working with employers, to produce the supply of technology skills the UK needs to succeed. They have developed a range of help for businesses and learners including IT professional apprenticeships which are meeting current and future skill needs and have been increasing their participation rates. A qualifications framework has been created to assess and develop skills in IT and enable learners to progress. A partnership of e-skills UK, employers and higher education has developed the Information Technology Management for Business Degree supported by major employers who offer placements and coaching, and e-skills UK also supports small businesses to improve their IT skills through the Business IT Guide.

In response to the IT skills needs of the most disadvantaged people, the Department is providing a further £13 million in 2011-12 to UK online centres to provide support through internet access and IT skills training. UK online centres have provided support for 380,000 people in England since April 2010 to get online for the first time. The Online Basics qualification is now listed on the Qualifications and Credit Framework and fee remission will be available for those learners on work-ready benefits who require digital life skills.

Industry Training Levies

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on industry training levies. [48834]

Mr Hayes: The skills strategy, "Skills for Sustainable Growth", published in November 2010, set out our aim of raising employer ambition on skills by encouraging employers to develop collective approaches to improving skills in their sector, including professional standards, occupational licensing and training levies. We want industries and sectors to explore if training levies—on a statutory or a voluntary basis—can help businesses pool their resources and achieve greater impact from their investment.

On Monday 7 March, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills launched a new £50 million Growth and Innovation Fund which will support the development of industry-led proposals around training levies, and other collective employer action aimed at overcoming the barriers to improving skills and driving growth.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the involvement of local enterprise partnerships in skills and training. [48886]

Mr Hayes: Local enterprise partnerships, colleges, universities and other training organisations are encouraged to work together to establish how they can best support the partnerships' ambitions. A skilled, educated work force is vital to drive growth both locally and nationally. That is why we are investing in education, skills and knowledge and are radically reforming the further education and skills system to deliver skills for sustainable growth.

Manufacturing Industries

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase levels of employment in the process and manufacturing sector. [49118]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting employment in the process and manufacturing industry by introducing more predictable and lower corporate taxes; cutting through the unnecessary red tape and regulation; increasing access to finance; and focusing on training and apprenticeships to ensure specialist skills are in good supply.

To support further growth in manufacturing, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 951-966, a package of measures as part of the growth review. These will benefit UK manufacturing through helping improve firms commercialise technology, boosting access to a skilled work force; and improving the image of the sector.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he had had with *(a)* industry boards, *(b)* employers and *(c)* trade unions in the process and manufacturing sector. [49120]

Mr Prisk: We have held a number of meetings with companies, industry representatives, trade unions and other stakeholders to discuss a range of issues of importance to the process and manufacturing sector. As well as separate meetings, on 25 January 2011, I chaired an Advanced Manufacturing Summit, which brought together all the key players in industry, Government and academia to discuss the challenges and barriers to manufacturing growth. In addition, the Secretary of State met with representatives of the TUC and other trade unions in the manufacturing sector in February.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to help raise the profile of careers in the process and manufacturing sector. [49121]

Mr Prisk: We believe that there is an important role for the Government in ensuring that there are strong, consistent messages about the vital role of manufacturing in the UK economy, and in highlighting UK manufacturing excellence. The Government's task is to spread the word about modern UK manufacturing, to draw attention to its breadth, diversity and dynamism, and to let people know about the opportunities it offers in terms of exciting, well-paid jobs and careers.

As part of Budget 2011 my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer published the Government's Plan for Growth, which sets out how we aim to meet these ambitions. Key initiatives that were announced include;

(1) Strengthening the Government's strategy for promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills; we aim to increase the STEM skills of young people in the UK and improve student awareness of STEM careers;

(2) To promote the UK manufacturing sector, the Government will launch a high profile industry showcase alongside the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and roll out a programme of 'Made in Britain' exhibitions;

(3) The Government are seeking to promote a new international prize in engineering, and is working with private sector partners to create an endowment to support such a prize.

In addition, through the "See Inside Manufacturing" initiative, companies will open their doors so that school children and students can get a look behind the scenes at what a career in manufacturing or engineering can offer. Excellence in British design, engineering and manufacturing is also being showcased through a rolling programme of themed displays at this Department's headquarters.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage growth in the process and manufacturing sector. [49122]

Mr Prisk: As part of Budget 2011 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Government's plan for growth. This contains four overarching ambitions that will ensure progress is made towards to achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. These ambitions are:

1. to create the most competitive tax system in the G20;

2. to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business;

3. to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy; and

4. to create a more educated work force that is the most flexible in Europe.

The plan for growth also sets out major initiatives in relation to sectors covered by the growth review. The advanced manufacturing sector will particularly benefit from: changes to capital allowances; the establishment of a High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre; the development of a new degree-equivalent higher level apprenticeship; and nine new university-based centres for innovative manufacturing.

Manufacturing Industries: Apprentices

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage employers in the process and manufacturing sector to employ apprentices. [49119]

Mr Prisk: Apprenticeships are good for businesses, good for growth and good for young people who want to get on. This Government want to support more apprenticeships than any previous Administration. We know that apprenticeships are valued by employers and individuals, providing real productivity benefits.

As part of Budget 2011, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a £180 million package for 50,000 extra apprenticeship places, including 10,000 advanced level and higher apprenticeships targeted at smaller employers. This means that this Government will deliver at least 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years, compared to the previous Government's plans.

This package was developed as an outcome of the growth review and although it is aimed at all business sectors, it is expected to particularly benefit the advanced manufacturing industry and its supply chain.

Micro-business

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of *(a)* micro-businesses and *(b)* employees of micro-businesses in each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [48320]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* Estimates of the number of micro-businesses are published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills at Government office regional (GOR) and country level and shown in the following table. Local authority area and parliamentary constituency estimates on the same methodology are not available.

Number of micro-businesses in 2009[1]

Government office region and country	*Number of micro-businesses*[2]
North East	133,365
North West	460,845
Yorkshire and the Humber	329,325
East Midlands	292,800
West Midlands	346,200
East of England	482,665
London	809,460
South East	714,380
South West	446,895
Wales	191,905
Scotland	308,815
Northern Ireland	116,930
Total	4,633,580

[1] In the UK, an estimated 3,764,000 employees work in micro-businesses. No estimates of the number of employees working for micro-businesses are available at regional, local authority or parliamentary constituency levels.

[2] A micro-business is defined here as a private sector business with fewer than 10 employees.

Midwifery: Training

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many enrolments there were in midwifery courses at Northumbria university in each academic year between 2005-06 and 2010-11. [49712]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects information on students in UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The most recent data available relate to the 2009/10 academic year. Figures for 2010/11 will be available in January 2012.

HESA use the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) to code a student's subject of study, and Midwifery falls within the most detailed level of this coding system. However, it was only in 2009/10 that HEIs were required to record at this detailed level of coding. Therefore figures for years prior to 2009/10 will not accurately record the number of Midwifery students, as some HEIs may have coded these students as Nursing, rather than choosing the code at the more detailed level of Midwifery.

The figures in the following table show the number of enrolments on Nursing courses at Northumbria university between 2005/06 and 2009/10, and for 2009/10 only, the number of Midwifery enrolments.

Nursing and midwifery enrolments[1] at Northumbria university academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Nursing*	*Midwifery*
2005/06	5,740	n/a
2006/07	5,720	n/a
2007/08	3,855	n/a
2008/09	3,795	n/a
2009/10	3,785	145

[1] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate students of all domiciles enrolled on full-time and part-time courses, and students in all years of study.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

NHS: Unfair Practices

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many investigations the Office of Fair Trading has conducted in relation to NHS-funded health care provision under its powers under the Competition Act 1998; and what remedies were imposed where such investigations identified breaches of prohibitions under that Act. [49313]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Office of Fair Trading has conducted no investigations into NHS-funded health care provision in England, Wales or Scotland using its powers under the Competition Act 1998 (the Act).

The Office of Fair Trading has conducted an investigation into the purchasing arrangements of a Health and Social Services (HSS) Trust in Northern Ireland using its powers under the Act. This 2003 investigation followed a ruling by the Competition Appeal Tribunal which held that the HSS Trust in question was acting as an 'undertaking' for the purposes of the Act. In its final decision (Decision of the Office of Fair Trading No CA98/09/2003), the OFT found no breaches of the Act, and closed the case without imposing any remedy.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many market references to the Competition Commission the Office of Fair Trading has made in relation to NHS-funded health care provision under its powers under the Enterprise Act 2002; and what remedies were recommended by the Competition Commission following each such reference. [49314]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Office of Fair Trading has made no market references to the Competition Commission in relation to NHS funded health care provision under its Enterprise Act 2002 powers.

Overseas Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by the Student Loans Company on prosecuting those from *(a)* European economic area and *(b)* non-EEA states who did not repay a student loan (i) wholly and (ii) partially in the latest period for which figures are available. [49115]

Mr Willetts: Student loans in England are only available to those who meet the relevant residence requirements. The Student Loans Company (SLC) applies the same mechanisms to all borrowers who move overseas after leaving their course.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) piloted arrangements in 2009 for collecting repayments from overseas borrowers, including options for legal action with the first group of EU borrowers who left their courses earlier than expected.

The SLC successfully raised nine judgments against EU borrowers with tuition fee loans. The SLC enforced some in Scottish courts and some in other EU countries. To date no action has been taken against other groups of students.

The costs incurred by the SLC on prosecuting those included within the pilot, who did not repay a student loan was £17,495.

Parental Leave

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the position of the UK in international comparator tables for the length of paid *(a)* maternity and *(b)* paternity leave; [48505]

(2) what assessment he has made of the relative position of the UK in international comparator tables measuring parental leave; and if he will make a statement. [48507]

Mr Davey: The UK provides 52 weeks maternity leave to all employed women, 39 weeks of which may be paid. The first six weeks are paid at 90% of average earnings; the remaining weeks are paid at 90% of average earnings, capped at £124.88 per week. Employed fathers who meet the qualifying criteria, are entitled to two weeks paternity leave, paid at £124.88 per week. Employed parents with one year's service of employment are entitled to 13 weeks unpaid parental leave, per parent per child, to be taken before their child's 5th birthday.

Due to the different schemes in place across the world; with different mixes of maternity, paternity and parental leave available to parents; it is difficult to make a sensible assessment of the UK's position in international comparator tables.

Post Offices

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the future of sales of *(a)* insurance, *(b)* foreign currency and *(c)* vehicle excise duty through the Post Office network; and if he will make a statement. [49858]

Mr Davey: Government have been clear that they support the Post Office's ambition to become a 'front office for government' and the important role the Post Office intends to play in the provision of financial services. However, decisions on individual products are a commercial matter for Post Office Ltd and its partners.

Regional Growth Fund: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many organisations in Yorkshire have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded funding from the Regional Growth Fund since its inception. [49683]

Mr Prisk: 464 bids have been received in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). Of these, 56.5 (.5 comes from a project that overlaps with another region) bids have been received from Yorkshire and the Humber region.

Final decisions on how to allocate funds available in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund have not yet been made. My noble Friend Lord Heseltine's Independent Advisory Panel has made recommendations to Ministers, who are considering the bids submitted in Round 1. Announcement on successful bids from Round 1 will be made soon.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which York-based organisations have applied for funding from the Regional Growth Fund since its inception; how much was sought in each case; whether the applications (i) were successful, (ii) were unsuccessful and (iii) are under consideration; and how much was awarded in respect of each successful application. [49684]

Mr Prisk: 464 bids were received in round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). Of these, three bids were based in York. The Department is unable to provide the amount requested in each of these cases as to do so would risk disclosure of the bids which were received in confidence and could adversely effect the commercial position of the applicants.

Final decisions on how to allocate funds available in round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund have not yet been made. My noble Friend Lord Heseltine's Independent Advisory Panel has made recommendations to Ministers, who are considering the bids submitted. I do, however, expect that announcements will be made soon.

Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 718-19W, on students: loans, how much was owed by those people prosecuted for non-repayment of their student loan; and what the cost to his Department was of raising such judgments. [49234]

Mr Willetts: The total amount owed by those prosecuted for non-repayment of their student loan was £28,573.52.

The costs incurred by the Student Loans Company (SLC) on prosecuting those who did not repay a student loan was £17,495.

Students: Reading Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students aged between 16 and 19 years normally resident in the Reading West constituency were in further and higher education in each of the last 10 years. [49720]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of 16 to 18-year-old learners participating in Government-funded further education in Reading West parliamentary constituency from 2002/03 to 2009/10 (near-final).

This includes participation across all further education learning routes, including further education, apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.

The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in table 2. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Table 1: Further education participation by learners aged 16 to 18 in Reading West constituency, 2002/03 to 2009/10 (near-final)

	Total
2002/03	1,340
2003/04	1,320
2004/05	1,320
2005/06	1,400
2006/07	1,400
2007/08	1,620
2008/09[1]	1,570
2009/10 (near-final)[1]	1,630

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:

1 Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

3. Information in this table is based on all government funded learners.

4. These data include FE, apprenticeships/Work Based Learning, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.

5. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year. Figures include a small number of learners aged under 16-year-olds.

6. Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on geographic boundaries of parliamentary constituencies as of May 2010, figures for 2002/03 to 2004/05 are based on earlier geographic boundaries. Figures for 2005/06 onwards cannot be directly compared with figures for earlier years, due to boundary changes within parliamentary constituencies—even for constituencies with similar names.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on further education and skills participation and achievement is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Final further education and skills participation data by geography for 2009/10 are due to be published in a supplementary table on the 31 March, available from the SFR at the above link.

Table 2: Higher education enrolments[1]. Aged 16 to 19 from Reading West parliamentary constituency[2]. English. Academic years 2000/01 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Enrolments*
2000/01	445
2001/02	450
2002/03	445
2003/04	470
2004/05	480
2005/06	515
2006/07	555
2007/08	530
2008/09	545
2009/10	615

[1] Covers enrolments to full-time and part-time courses at postgraduate and undergraduate level.
[2] Excludes students whose parliamentary constituency could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Timesharing

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on long-term and in-perpetuity management fee obligations on timeshare properties where the owner is *(a)* alive and *(b)* deceased. [48578]

Mr Davey: Since the general election I have received eight items of correspondence on the matter of long-term contractual obligations to pay for the management of timeshare property. This includes one response to this Department's consultation on draft regulations which came into effect on 23 February 2011 (SI 2010/2960) to implement the directive on timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts (2008/122/EC). Of these, three contained concerns that the correspondents believed or were led to believe that their descendants would be bound by their contract.

The Department passes these concerns to the Office of Fair Trading for any action it may deem appropriate under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.

Tobacco

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effects on small businesses of the European Commission's re-appraisal of the tobacco control directive; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effects of the reappraisal on the implementation of the Government's proposed tobacco display ban. [47267]

Mr Prisk: I am fully aware of the European Commission's reappraisal of the tobacco control directive and the outline proposals for this on which the Commission recently publicly consulted. BIS officials will work with Department of Health colleagues to ensure that the potential effects on small businesses are fully understood and that these are avoided or mitigated as much as possible while still delivering any agreed public health policy objectives. Domestically the Secretary of State has had several discussions with my the Secretary of State for Health and other Ministers in respect of implementing the Government's tobacco display ban; the Secretary of State for Health made a statement to Parliament setting out our agreed position on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-69WS.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Eelectoral Law: Convictions

Mr Dodds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted for offences under electoral law in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [48816]

Mr Harper: The Government do not keep statistics on charges and convictions for offences under electoral law in England and Wales. The figures cited as follows are extracted from reports prepared by the Electoral Commission rather than from central Government records. Accordingly, those reports do not necessarily constitute a complete record of the number of charges and convictions during the period referred to.

Information is not available for the period 1997 to 1999.

The Electoral Commission's report "Further analysis of CPS files on allegations of electoral malpractice in England and Wales 2000-2006" gives details of prosecutions for electoral malpractice under the Representation of the People Act 1983 during that period. The report noted that convictions do not necessarily occur in the same year that proceedings are initiated and found that the number of convictions in each year from 2000 to 2006 was as follows:

	Number of cases with guilty verdict
2000	5
2001	11
2002	1
2003	4
2004	0
2005	1
2006	1

Though statistics are not recorded on charges and convictions brought under common law fraud offences in England and Wales, I am aware that subsequently five people were convicted under the common law offence of conspiracy to defraud at the 2005 general election in the Bradford West constituency and all received a custodial sentence.

With regard to the Welsh Assembly election of 2007, and local government elections in England in 2007, the Electoral Commission's report "Electoral malpractice in England and Wales—2007 trends" found that at the 2007 elections 129 allegations of electoral malpractice were recorded in England and Wales. Subsequently six people were convicted of committing a number of electoral offences at the May 2007 local government elections in Slough and all received a custodial sentence. Charges that were brought against some of these six individuals also included the common law offence of conspiracy to defraud.

At elections in 2008, 2009 and 2010 there was systematic monitoring by the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) of allegations of electoral malpractice reported to the police during the election period.

With regard to local government elections in England and Wales in 2008, the Electoral Commission and ACPO report "Allegations of electoral malpractice at the May 2008 elections in England and Wales" found that one case led to prosecution, which resulted in the conviction of one person on a charge of making a false application to vote by proxy and a fine of £1,015.

With regard to the European elections of 2009 and local government elections in England in 2009, the Electoral Commission and ACPO report "Analysis of allegations of electoral malpractice at the June 2009 elections" found that two people pleaded guilty to three charges of false registration and other non-electoral fraud charges in Bournemouth, and each received a sentence of one month's imprisonment for the registration offences. The report identifies that, in mid-December 2009, one person pleaded guilty to two charges of personation at the European parliamentary and local government elections in Cannock, and was sentenced to four months in prison. The Commission's report also provided updated information about the outcome of allegations of fraud at the May 2008 elections. The report found that a further two cases relating to the May 2008 elections had led to charges or prosecutions. The first additional case resulted in two people pleading guilty to personation at a polling station, and were both given the maximum community service order penalty of 300 hours. In the second additional case, charges were brought against one person for two false applications to vote by proxy in Calderdale. This person was subsequently found guilty and in August 2010 was given a suspended sentence of 12 months: six months for each offence of falsely applying to vote by proxy, with the suspension to last for 12 months.

With regard to the UK general election and local government elections in England in 2010, the Electoral Commission and ACPO report "Analysis of cases of alleged electoral malpractice in 2010" found that one case of alleged electoral malpractice in Manchester relating to the distribution of leaflets without an imprint and making false statements about a candidate resulted in a prosecution and conviction, leading to a fine of £200. Court proceedings had been initiated in one other case. The Commission's report also provided updated information about the outcome of allegations of electoral fraud at previous elections. The report found that at the 2008 elections, additionally, two people were charged with falsely applying to vote by proxy in Walsall. The first was acquitted following trial at the magistrates court. The second pleaded guilty to two charges of falsely registering for a proxy and was given a custodial sentence of six weeks on each charge to run consecutively.

Elections: Council of Europe

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the UK was consulted in advance of the adoption by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe of its code of good practice in electoral matters in July 2002; whether the code has an effect on UK domestic law; and if he will make a statement. [46850]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The Venice Commission is an advisory body in the Council of Europe (COE) with no executive powers. The Venice Commission's code of good practice in electoral matters was approved in 2003 by two other advisory and consultative bodies of the COE: the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. The executive and principal decision taking body of the COE, the Committee of Ministers, adopted a declaration in 2004 calling on COE member states' Governments to take account of the code when drafting electoral legislation. The UK is represented on all these bodies. The code is not legally binding.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49180]

Mr Duncan: 31 civil servants within the Department for International Development (DFID) have accepted offers of voluntary redundancy since April 2010. These early exits were in line with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation scheme applicable at the time of offer.

Developing Countries: Leprosy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will allocate funding to reduce leprosy in the developing world. [49236]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £12.5 million to the World Health Organisation's core budget in the 2010-11 financial year, which includes an element for leprosy control. We also provide £14 million over the period 2008-13 to the WHO special programme on tropical disease research (TDR).

DFID also supports the strengthening of health services in several countries, including India, so as to provide services for all major causes of ill health, including leprosy.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to UNICEF's sanitation and water relief for all campaign in the latest period for which figures are available. [49289]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £250,000 in 2010-11 to support the work of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) secretariat to ensure SWA contributes to tangible progress in water and sanitation in the most off-track countries over the next year. This support contributed to six developing countries committing to increasing their domestic spending on the water and sanitation sector; Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania and Senegal.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has with his international counterparts to encourage donor countries to support UNICEF's sanitation and water relief for all campaign. [49290]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has taken a leadership role in encouraging other donors to participate in the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) initiative. This resulted in 13 donors attending the first high level meeting (HLM) in March last year. Austria, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland and the African Development Bank have now become official partners in the initiative alongside the UK. DFID now holds the position of vice-chair.

The Secretary of State personally attended the water and sanitation event, organised by SWA, at the United Nations summit on the millennium development goals. At that event he confirmed DFID's support for the initiative and emphasised how DFID would work with other donors to use the initiative to improve the impact, sustainability and value for money of aid spending in water and sanitation.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1254-5W, on Export Credits Guarantee Department, for which Export Credits Guarantee Department transactions his Department has provided case-by-case assessment in each of the last five years; [49149]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1254-5W, on the Export Credits Guarantee Department, what definition of poorest countries his Department uses to determine when to provide a case-by-case assessment of an Export Credits Guarantee Department transaction. [49150]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) assesses projects where the recipient country is able to borrow from the World Bank only on highly concessional terms because of their very low incomes or lack of creditworthiness, or where it is able to borrow from the International Monetary Fund on concessional terms. Further details of this commitment are available on the OECD website:

http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_34179_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Since the summer of 2006, 15 projects have been submitted to DFID for assessment by the Export Credit Guarantees Department (ECGD), including one project currently under review. These projects are set out in the following table.

ECGD Projects Assessed by DFID

Date assessed	*Importing country*	*Project description*	*Sector*
March 2011 (under review)	Sri Lanka	The project is to design, supply, and install 196 bridges in rural locations in Sri Lanka	Public
March 2011	Kenya	The Supply of 700 Land Rover Discovery Vehicles for police use	Public
December 2010	Nigeria	Supply of a Compressed Natural Gas Delivery System to Green Fuels Ltd, Nigeria	Private
July 2009	Nigeria	Design and supply of water treatment and distribution systems for Cross RiverState Water Board, Nigeria	Public
December 2009	Nigeria	Sale of equipment to "Crushing Dragon" (Nigeria) to expand production from a granite quarry.	Private
September 2008	Nigeria	Delivery of three Airbus A340-500 aircraft to Arik Air Limited, to support fleet development by the airline and purchase of two Rolls Royce engines.	Private
July 2008	Nigeria	The supply of aluminium can manufacturing equipment by Carnaud Metalbox Engineering plc to GZ Industries Ltd, Nigeria.	Private
June 2008	Nigeria	Sale of a second-hand business jet from the UK to a Nigerian private sector operator, Easy Jet Nigeria. The aircraft will be used for charter flights between the UK and Nigeria.	Private
October 2007	Sri Lanka	A project for the survey, design, supply and implementation of 222 bridges, including emergency bridges and technical assistance	Public
August 2007	Nigeria	400 London Taxis to the Abuja Leasing Company	Private
August 2007	Sri Lanka	Coastal Zone Mapping	Public
April 2007	Ghana	Rehabilitation and development of Kotoka International Airport, Accra.	Public
November 2006	Ghana	Groundnut processing plant in Northern Ghana	Public
October 2006	Vietnam	Acquisition of ten Airbus A321 aircraft by Vietnam Airlines.	Public
June 2006	Kenya	Supply of two Rolls Royce aero engines for a new Boeing 777 to be supplied to Kenya Airways	Private

International Assistance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the reform of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. [49287]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State has made it clear that the Department for International Development's attention is focused on accelerating progress towards the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over the four remaining years. It is important that thinking on what should come next does not distract international effort away from this.

Formal processes to consider what happens after 2015, at the UN and in other forums, are yet to start. When they do, we will work to ensure that the best aspects of the current framework are carried forward, and that we adapt those aspects that have worked less well.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Water

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* multilateral and *(b)* bilateral aid his Department plans to provide to increase access to running water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa in the next four financial years. [49279]

Mr O'Brien: Providing clean water and sanitation was identified as a priority in the recent Bilateral Aid Review. The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated an indicative budget of £396 million in bilateral aid to be spent through our country programmes over the next four financial years to increase access to water and sanitation in nine off track countries in sub-Saharan Africa. DFID will also fund multilateral organisations, such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, that will also provide assistance to increase access to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. Figures for this multilateral expenditure are not currently available.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the progress made in sub-Saharan Africa in achieving the millennium development goal on water provision and sanitation. [49288]

Mr O'Brien: Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region that is off-track in meeting the Millennium Development Goal target for water. 330 million people, or 40% of the population, did not have safe drinking water in 2008. Only four sub-Saharan countries (South Africa, Rwanda, Angola and Botswana) are on track for meeting the sanitation target. The UK will support programmes in nine off-track countries of sub-Saharan Africa to provide people with access to clean water and improved sanitation, as well as support through multilateral organisations.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments there were in *(a)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area and *(b)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 2008-09. [49139]

Anne Milton: An estimate of the number of alcohol-related[1] emergency admissions to hospital via accident and emergency[2] that are (i) wholly attributable to alcohol or those that are (ii) wholly or partially attributable to alcohol for East of England strategic health authority (SHA) (residence)[3] and Suffolk primary care trust (PCT) (residence)[3] from 2008-09 to 2009-10 is given in the following table.

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS-commissioned activity in the independent sector

	2009-10		*2008-09*	
	Estimated admissions wholly attributable to alcohol	*Estimated admissions partially or wholly attributable to alcohol*	*Estimated admissions wholly attributable to alcohol*	*Estimated admissions partially or wholly attributable to alcohol*
East of England SHA	14,116	165,191	12,433	147,679
Suffolk PCT	1,535	16,668	1,222	13,894

[1] *Estimate of alcohol-related admissions:*
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at:
www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf
The application of the NWPHO methodology was updated in summer 2010 and is now available directly from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Information about episodes estimated to be alcohol-related may be slightly different from previously published data.
[2] *Accident and emergency:*
Admission method codes 21 and 28 were used:
21: Emergency via Accident and Emergency (A&E), including the casualty department of the provider;
28: Emergency: Other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider.
[3] *SHA/PCT of residence:*
The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.
Notes:
1. *Assessing growth through time:*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
2. *Data quality:*
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of deaths *(a)* directly attributable to alcohol consumption, *(b)* where alcohol consumption was an attributable factor and *(c)* where alcohol consumption was named on the death certificate as a contributory cause in each of the last three years; [49281]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of deaths from *(a)* oesophageal cancer, *(b)* colorectal cancer, *(c)* breast cancer, *(d)* pancreatic cancer and *(e)* liver cancer that were attributed to alcohol consumption in the last year for which figures are available; [49282]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* suicides and *(b)* accidental deaths that were attributed to alcohol in the last year for which figures are available. [49283]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2001:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions.

Table 1 provides the number of deaths where an alcohol-related cause was (i) the underlying cause of death, or (ii) mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in England and Wales, for 2007 to 2009 (the latest year available). The National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths only includes those causes regarded as being most directly due to alcohol consumption, as shown in Box 1.

It is not possible to provide figures for the number or proportion of deaths from (a) oesophageal cancer, (b) colorectal cancer, (c) breast cancer, (d) pancreatic cancer or (e) liver cancer which were caused by alcohol, from the information collected at death registration.

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgment. Lifestyle and behavioural factors, such as the deceased's alcohol consumption, are not recorded.

Estimates of alcohol-attributable mortality for specific causes of death in England have been published in a collaborative report by the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University and the North West Public Health Observatory, The report, titled 'Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol attributable mortality and hospital admissions', is available at the following link:

http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/Publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf

Table 2 provides the number of deaths where alcohol poisoning was the underlying cause of death, where the intent was (a) intentional (suicide), (b) accidental, or (c) undetermined, in England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available). The figures do not include deaths caused by suicide, accidents or other circumstances where the deceased had consumed alcohol before the event, as this information is not routinely recorded in coroner inquest reports or at death registration.

Table 1: Number of deaths where an alcohol-related cause was the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2007-09[1, 2, 3, 4]

		Deaths (persons)
	Underlying cause	*Mentioned*
2007	7,042	11,988
2008	7,344	12,417
2009	7,099	12,550

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific conditions which are included in the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1.

[2] Deaths were included where an alcohol-related cause was the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where alcohol poisoning was the underlying cause of death, by intent, England and Wales, 2009[1, 2, 3]

Intent	*Deaths (persons)*
Intentional	2
Accidental	179
Undetermined	8

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X65 (intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol), X45 (accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol), and Y15 (poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined).

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths

International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes	*Definition*
F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
G31.2	Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol
G62.1	Alcoholic polyneuropathy
I42.6	Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K29.2	Alcoholic gastritis
K70	Alcoholic liver disease
K73	Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74	Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (Excluding K74.3-K74.5—Biliary cirrhosis)
K86.0	Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
X65	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Y15	Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent

Aniridia: Children

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children of ethnic minority background have been diagnosed with the eye condition aniridia. [49224]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data on all those diagnosed with aniridia.

Information produced by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care shows that for 2009-10 there were 35 finished consultant episodes involving children aged 0-14 where 'absence of the iris' was the primary diagnosis. The data are not sufficiently detailed to show the ethnic background of those children.

Note:

A finished consultant episode is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to ophthalmologists on the diagnosis of aniridia in children from ethnic minority backgrounds. [49225]

Mr Simon Burns: No guidance has been issued by the Department on the diagnosis of aniridia.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49182]

Mr Simon Burns: In preparation for the proposed changes in the Civil Service Compensation scheme, the Department did not launch or offer any open early exit schemes during 2010. There were 16 business as usual exits between April and October 2010, where clear evidence had been provided of limited postability or limited efficiency.

Since the launch of the new compensation arrangements in December, the Department launched a voluntary exit scheme in January 2011. This is still part way through its administration, with exits taking place between 31 May 2011 and 31 March 2012. These standard tariff terms have been offered to 263 members of staff but final numbers may change as staff decide whether to accept or decline the terms on offer.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [49311]

Mr Simon Burns: The information presented in the following table provides the numbers and costs of those taking early retirement under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme arrangements. The total costs include annual compensation payments paid to individuals until they reach normal retirement age.

Information about 2010-11 reflects the position to 24 March 2011.

	Number of staff	*Total cost (£ million)*
2006-07	27	5
2007-08	42	6.6
2008-09	15	2.6
2009-10	17	2.1
2010-11	10	1.5

Drugs: Developing Countries

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to enable sealed and unused surplus medicines which are returned by patients to be provided for use in developing countries rather than being destroyed. [49426]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government do not promote the reuse of returned medicines from patients in this country, as it is not possible to guarantee the quality of a returned medicine by physical inspection alone.

This is in line with the World Health Organisation's Guidelines for Drug Donations, which recommends that no drugs should be donated that have been issued to patients and then returned to a pharmacy.

Food: Packaging

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of toxins from food packaging on food. [49636]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has commissioned a wide range of research and surveillance into the possibility of chemicals, that might be toxic to human health; migrating from food packaging into food.

The results of the research and surveillance are evaluated to determine whether there are potential food safety issues, the FSA has taken immediate action to protect the public where a potential food safety issue has been identified.

Further information is available on the FSA website at:

www.food.gov.uk

Fruit: Schools

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future funding for the provision of free fruit in primary schools. [49376]

Anne Milton: The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme will remain unchanged until 31 March 2012, when its position will be reviewed in light of new public health priorities and developing work on the ring-fenced budget for Public Health England, which will operate from 2012-13.

General Practitioners

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the British Medical Association on his Department's proposals for GP consortia. [49138]

Mr Simon Burns: Since July 2010, the Secretary of State for Health has met with representatives of the British Medical Association on five occasions.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered the merits of amending the list of services to GP practices funded by the NHS to cover the provision of letters written to refer patients to private practices. [49141]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the terms of their contract with the national health service, general practitioners (GPs) are required to refer patients for other services as appropriate. GPs are also prevented from charging their patients a fee for NHS or private treatment under the contract except in certain prescribed circumstances.

However, GPs also provide a variety of other services which successive Governments have regarded as private matters between the patient and the doctor providing the service. The doctor is free to make a charge for these non-NHS services if he or she wishes.

We feel that it is important that services provided by GPs, which are funded by the NHS, are delivered to, and for the benefit of, the majority of patients. Therefore there are no plans include the provision of letters for referral to private practices in the list of items which are provided free of charge.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered the merits of reviewing the professional fees charged by GP practices for letters written to refer patients to private practices. [49142]

Mr Simon Burns: The provision of services by general practitioners (GPs) outside those contracted for under GP contractual arrangements is not a matter for the Department or for Government. As independent contractors this is something for the individual practice to determine. The Professional Fees Committee of the British Medical Association (BMA) suggests fees for such services to help doctors set their own professional fees. However, these fees are guidelines only, not recommendations, and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates suggested. Where doctors intend to charge for services to patients, the BMA advises them to forewarn patients, at the earliest opportunity, of the likely level of fees.

Gynaecology: Medical Treatments

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the *(a)* economic effects and *(b)* effects on patients of uterine fibroid embolisation as an alternative to hysterectomy; [49228]

(2) what plans he has to improve GP training on uterine fibroid embolisation to enable women with fibroids to choose such therapy as an alternative to hysterectomy; [49229]

(3) what information he plans to make available to patients with fibroids to enable them to make an informed decision about their treatment and care based on the different options available; [49230]

(4) whether he plans to encourage GPs to offer uterine fibroid embolisation to women with fibroids as an alternative to hysterectomy in line with the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guideline 44 on heavy menstrual bleeding. [49231]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidelines in November 2010. It is for the national health services to take account of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on uterine fibroid embolisation. We have no plans for further action.

The content of curriculum and quality and standard of training for medical professions is the responsibility of the appropriate professional regulatory body. The content and standard of medical training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC), which is the competent authority for medical training in the Unite Kingdom. GMC is an independent professional body.

The NHS Choices website:

www.nhs.uk

includes detailed information for patients on fibroids, treatment options and where treatment is available. Information for patients with fibroids can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/fibroids/Pages/Introduction.aspx

However, while it is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe the exact training that any individual doctor will receive we are, of course, aware of the need to ensure perceived areas of weakness in training curricula are addressed. For that reason, we are liaising with the Regulators and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges about how best to ensure curricula do meet requirements.

Hip Replacements: Waiting Lists

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for a hip replacement operation in *(a)* Bolton, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [49605]

Mr Simon Burns: The median time waited, in days, for hip replacement procedures, is shown in the following table.

Median time waited (in days) for hip replacement procedures in Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT) of residence, Greater Manchester PCTs of residence[1] and England from 2000-01 to 2009-10[2]

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bolton PCT										
Median	254	348	341	262	218	168	159	72	63	64
Greater Manchester										
Median	233	251	241	217	178	140	126	90	79	83
England										
Median	212	220	229	217	182	158	148	107	75	77

[1] The data include activity in the following PCTs: Salford PCT, Stockport PCT, Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT, Bolton PCT, Oldham PCT, Bury PCT, Tameside and Glossop PCT, Manchester PCT, Trafford PCT and Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT.

[2] Data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years due to changes in PCT boundaries.

Notes:

1. The data include activity in English NHS hospitals and English national health service commissioned activity in the independent sector. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) provides counts and time waited for all patients between decisions to admit and admission to hospital within a given period.
2. Hip replacement is defined as a main procedure with OPCS4 code W37 to W39, W46 to W48 or W93 to W95.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hyperactivity: Drugs

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will amend the guidance on the use of methylphenidate for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in order to reduce levels of prescribing of methylphenidate. [49457]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued any guidance to the national health service on the use of methylphenidate (Ritalin).

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published technology appraisal guidance in March 2006 which recommended methylphenidate within its licensed indication as an option for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). NICE also published a clinical guideline in September 2008 on the diagnosis and management of ADHD in children, young people and adults which also recommends methylphenidate as a treatment option subject to certain criteria.

We understand that NICE plans to consider the need to review the clinical guideline in October 2011. Further information is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG72

Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49250]

Paul Burstow: Revenue and capital grant allocations from the Department to local authorities for 2010-11 were contained within Local Authority Social Services Letter LASSL(DH)(2008)4. The Department also made a contribution to the Single Capital Pot for 2010-11, details of which are contained within Local Authority Social Services Letter LASSL(DH)(2008)3. A copy of each of these letters has been placed in the Library.

At the time of the spending review, the Department announced that revenue grant funding had been maintained in real terms for 2011-12. We have also allocated an additional £1 billion by 2014-15, through local government, to support social care. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, these funding streams will go to authorities through the general local government formula grant. It is therefore not possible to provide a local authority level breakdown.

The value of the social care revenue grant funding which is rolling into formula grant is as follows:

£ million

	2010-11	*2011-12*
AIDS support	25.50	27.70
Preserved rights	235.40	228.84
Ongoing Personal Social Services[1]	752.34	767.02
Recycled Personal Social Services[2]	303.00	318.15
New Personal Social Services Funding	[3]—	530.00
Total	1,316.24	1,871.71

[1] Previously formed from:
Mental Health
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Learning Disability Development Fund
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service
Carers
Adult Social Care Workforce
LINKs

[2] Previously formed from:
Social Care Reform
Learning Disability Campus Closure Programme
Stroke Strategy

[3] New

From 2011-12, the Department will be also allocating the Learning Disabilities and Health Reform grant to local authorities. This is a new grant, reflecting the transfer of commissioning responsibility for specialist services for people with learning disabilities from primary care trusts to local authorities. This grant will be worth £1,325.58 million in 2011-12.

At the time of the spending review, the Department announced that capital grant funding for social care had been maintained in real terms for 2011-12, and would be allocated as a single funding stream. The capital grant will be worth £124 million in 2011-12.

Details of the allocations for the Learning Disabilities and Health Reform grant, and the social care capital grant, are contained within Local Authority Social Services Letter LASSL(DH)(2010)2. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

Finally, the Department has made available £162 million for 2010-11 and £648 million for 2011-12 within the national health service in order to support social care and improve joint working between the two systems. Details about this funding have been set out in a letter from David Behan and David Flory to NHS and local authority chief executives, which can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_123460

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

Lorazepam

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the Gold File for Ativan tablets (refs: PL00011/0034R and PL00011/0036R). [49086]

Mr Simon Burns: The term "Gold File" refers to old paper files with a yellow cover which were held for each medicine on the United Kingdom market by the Medicines Control Agency (succeeded in 2003 by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)). These files are no longer used and cannot be considered a comprehensive record of the regulatory history of these products. They contain correspondence about the particular product licences and documents associated with routine regulatory procedures.

The marketing authorisation holder, not the MHRA, has a legal responsibility to retain all documents related to the product licence. Under MHRA record management policy, all files and data for licences are held for 15 years.

Exceptionally, there are some older documents in archives which have not yet been destroyed. This includes the file of interest related to Ativan which covers the period from July 1981 to June 1993. To redact this large file to make it public would incur disproportionate cost.

Medical Records

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to allow NHS patients greater access to their health records. [49137]

Mr Simon Burns: The ambition to give people greater access and control of their healthcare records was central to our consultation "Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution".

The responses (742) to the broader Information Revolution consultation have now been analysed and in spring we will set out the Government's response to the consultation, prior to publishing the Information Strategy for health and adult social care in England.

Mental Health Services: Nurses

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) where the 30 additional mental health nurses in mental health trusts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review are to be deployed; and what the rationale is for the locations chosen for deployment; [48985]

(2) whether the 30 additional mental health nurses in mental health trusts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review are to be recruited from outside the NHS; [48986]

(3) whether the 30 additional mental health nurses in mental health trusts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review are to receive specialist training; [48987]

(4) at what grade the 30 additional mental health nurses in mental health trusts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review are to be paid; [48988]

(5) to what standard the 30 additional mental health nurses in mental health trusts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review are to be trained. [48989]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have made additional funds available from 2011-12 to allow the recruitment of 30 whole-time equivalent additional staff to better meet the mental health needs of veterans. There is now an armed forces network in each English region and these networks, working with the Department, will determine in detail how these additional staff are to be deployed.

NHS: Drugs

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he had with *(a)* patient, *(b)* clinical and *(c)* industry representatives during the consultation period on his Department's proposals for introducing value-based pricing; [49274]

(2) what plans he has to consult with *(a)* patient, *(b)* clinical and *(c)* industry representatives on the development of his Department's proposals for value-based-pricing following the close of the public consultation; [49275]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence on its role in assessing new medicines under his value-based pricing proposals. [49418]

Mr Simon Burns: Our public consultation "A new value-based approach to the pricing of branded medicines" set out our proposals for reforming the pricing system for new medicines. During the consultation period, we engaged with a range of partner organisations including patient, clinical and industry representatives and other interested parties including the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to highlight the consultation process.

The consultation closed on 17 March 2011 and we are currently considering the responses, which will inform our work to plan future engagement processes. We intend to continue to work with patient, clinical and industry representatives and others who have an interest as our work to develop value-based pricing progresses.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of spending on NHS services per head of population in the *(a)* Bexley primary care trust area, *(b)* NHS Greenwich area and *(c)* NHS West Kent area was in the last three years for which figures are available. [49079]

Mr Simon Burns: The amount spent per head of population in 2007-08 to 2009-10 by Bexley primary care trust (PCT), Greenwich Teaching PCT and West Kent PCT are shown in the following table.

			£
Organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bexley PCT	1,321	1,362	1,518
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,557	1,712	1,902
West Kent PCT	1,256	1,362	1,476

The net operating cost figures used to calculate the spend per head are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of the PCTs for 2007-08 to 2009-10.

NHS: Theft

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the monetary value of medication which has gone missing or been stolen from NHS hospitals in each of the last three years; [49449]

(2) if he will estimate the monetary value of *(a)* computer and *(b)* other equipment which has gone missing or been stolen from NHS hospitals in each of the last three years. [49450]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS received from prescription charges in each of the last five years. [49147]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table provides the revenue raised from prescription charges collected by pharmacists, appliance contractors and from prescription pre-payment certificate fees for each of the last five years in England. The figures exclude prescription charges collected by dispensing doctors and in hospitals, as this is not collected centrally.

	£ million
2005-06	427
2006-07	412
2007-08	432
2008-09	440
2009-10	432

Sources:
Department of Health Resource Accounts 2009-10 and Accounts of the NHS Business Services Authority: 2009-10 Pharmaceutical Accounts (outturn figures)

Professor Malcolm Lader

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which regulatory authorities sponsored by his Department Professor Malcolm Lader *(a)* has served in the last 30 years and *(b)* is serving; and on what date each such appointment (i) commenced and (ii) ended. [49226]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Professor Lader is currently Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology at the Institute of Psychiatry, university of London and in the past has been a member of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and the Committee on the Review of Medicines. Neither body is classed by the Department as a regulatory authority.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to section 6.12 of his Department's publication, Improving outcomes: a strategy for cancer, January 2011, how much additional funding his Department expects to make available to maintain radiotherapy services in the next four years; and whether some of this additional funding can be used to install the South West Cyberknife in Plymouth Derriford Hospital; [49562]

(2) with reference to section 6.13 of his Department's publication, Improving outcomes: a strategy for cancer, January 2011, what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS patients have access to the most recent radiotherapy techniques comparable to those used in other European countries, including Cyberknife. [49563]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" sets out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing around £150 million in additional funding over the next four years. This will increase the utilisation of existing equipment, establish services where patients currently have long distances to travel for treatment and ensure that all high priority patients with a need for proton beam therapy treatment get access to it abroad.

Decisions to purchase high value equipment are made locally, and cases for procurement should take account of the available clinical evidence, potential demand and the costs of the different machines available that are capable of meeting the operational need. Cyberknife is a machine that delivers stereotactic body radiotherapy, and there are other machines on the market with similar capabilities.

We recognise that ensuring patients have access to high quality modern radiotherapy techniques can deliver improved patient outcomes. We are investigating the potential development of a range of tariffs to incentivise high quality, cost-effective services, including the newest radiotherapy techniques.

Smoking

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) nine to 12, (ii) 13 to 15 and (iii) 16 to 17 who regularly smoke (A) one to nine, (B) 10 to 19 and (C) 20 or more cigarettes per day; and what the equivalent figures were in (1) 1990, (2) 1995, (3) 1997 and (4) each year between 2001 and 2008. [48870]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested. We hold information for adults (aged 16 and over) and children (aged 11 to 15) but we do not hold information for children under 11.

Table 3.3a of 'Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2009' shows the percentage of pupils who were regular smokers aged 11 to 15 by gender for the period 1982 to 2000. Table 3.3b shows the same information for the period 2001-09. Table 3.6 shows mean and median number of cigarettes smoked in the last week, by sex and smoking status from 2003-09. The survey has already been placed in the Library. It is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd09fullreport

Table 7 of the 'Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables', as follows, shows self-reported smoking status by survey year. Information is provided for adults (men and women) aged 16 and over in England for the years 1993 to 2009. This information for those aged 16 to 17 (part iii) is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

Self-reported cigarette smoking status, by survey year and sex: Adults aged 16 and over—1993 to 2009

Percentage

	Survey year							
Cigarette smoking status	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Men								
Never regularly smoked cigarettes[2]	39	39	40	40	40	40	42	42
Used to smoke cigarettes regularly	33	32	31	30	31	31	30	30
Current smoker	28	28	29	30	29	28	27	28
Cigarette smokers								
Under 10 cigarettes a day	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	7
10 to under 20 cigarettes a day	10	11	10	11	11	11	10	10
20 or more cigarettes a day	11	11	12	11	11	10	10	10
Number smoked a day not known	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median per current smoker per day	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

Self-reported cigarette smoking status, by survey year and sex: Adults aged 16 and over—1993 to 2009

Percentage

	Survey year							
Cigarette smoking status	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Bases:								
All men	7,678	7,159	7,321	7,479	3,891	7,163	3,543	3,639
Women								
Never regularly smoked cigarettes[2]	52	51	52	52	52	52	52	56
Used to smoke cigarettes regularly	22	22	21	21	21	21	21	19
Current smoker	26	27	27	27	27	27	26	25
Cigarette smokers								
Under 10 cigarettes a day	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
10 to under 20 cigarettes a day	11	11	12	11	11	11	12	10
20 or more cigarettes a day	8	7	7	8	8	8	7	7
Number smoked a day not known	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	—
Median per current smoker per day	13	12	13	13	13	13	12	12
Bases:								
All women	8,873	8,609	8,706	8,939	4,676	8,694	4,224	4,315
All adults								
Never regularly smoked cigarettes[2]	46	46	47	46	47	47	48	50
Used to smoke cigarettes regularly	27	27	26	25	26	26	25	24
Current smoker	27	27	28	29	28	28	27	26
Cigarette smokers								
Under 10 cigarettes a day	7	8	7	8	8	7	8	7
10 to under 20 cigarettes a day	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	10
20 or more cigarettes a day	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
Number smoked a day not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median per current smoker per day	15	15	15	15	15	14	13	13
Bases:								
All adults	16,551	15,768	16,027	16,418	8,567	15,857	7,767	7,954

Percentage

	Survey year								
Cigarette smoking status	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Men									
Never regularly smoked cigarettes[2]	43	44	45	47	45	49	48	49	49
Used to smoke cigarettes regularly	31	29	28	29	28	27	28	27	27
Current smoker	26	27	27	24	27	24	24	24	24
Cigarette smokers									
Under 10 cigarettes a day	7	7	7	7	8	8	7	7	8
10 to under 20 cigarettes a day	9	10	10	9	11	9	9	10	10
20 or more cigarettes a day	9	10	9	7	8	7	7	7	6
Number smoked a day not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median per current smoker per day	15	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	11
Bases:									
All men	6,919	3,303	7,148	3,225	3,659	6,791	3,339	7,256	2,314
Women									
Never regularly smoked cigarettes[2]	53	54	56	56	56	57	58	58	58
Used to smoke cigarettes regularly	22	20	20	22	20	22	21	22	22
Current smoker	25	26	24	23	24	21	21	20	20
Cigarette smokers									
Under 10 cigarettes a day	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	7
10 to under 20 cigarettes a day	10	11	10	10	9	9	9	9	9

Percentage

					Survey year				
Cigarette smoking status	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
20 or more cigarettes a day	7	6	7	6	6	5	4	4	5
Number smoked a day not known	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median per current smoker per day	12	11	13	12	11	11	11	11	11
Bases:									
All women	8,642	4,056	7,599	3,416	3,899	7,258	3,513	7,626	2,425
All adults									
Never regularly smoked cigarettes[2]	48	50	51	51	51	53	53	54	53
Used to smoke cigarettes regularly	26	24	24	25	24	24	25	25	24
Current smoker	25	26	25	23	25	23	22	22	22
Cigarette smokers									
Under 10 cigarettes a day	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	7
10 to under 20 cigarettes a day	10	11	10	10	10	9	9	9	9
20 or more cigarettes a day	8	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	6
Number smoked a day not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median per current smoker per day	13	13	13	13	12	12	12	11	11
Bases:									
All adults	15,561	7,359	14,747	6,641	7,557	14,049	6,853	14,882	4,739

[1] Data up to 2002 are unweighted; from 2003 onwards data have been weighted for non-response.

[2] In the 1996 Health Survey Report, the 'Never regularly smoked cigarettes' category was split into 'Never smoked cigarettes' and 'Used to smoke cigarettes occasionally'. The data presented in the 1996 HSE report were calculated incorrectly, and therefore the categories are shown recombined in this table.

Source:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics

Surgery: Bolton

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical operations were carried out in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency and *(b)* Bolton in each of the last three years. [49597]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes for patients whose primary care trust (PCT) of residence is Bolton PCT.

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] with a named main procedure or intervention[2] where the PCT of residence[3] is 5HQ—Bolton PCT, for 2007-08 to 2009-10

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Provider description	*Provider code*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bolton PCT	5HQ	40,920	43,850	47,374

Notes:

1. *Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)*

FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. *Main procedure*

The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

3. *SHA/PCT of residence*

The strategic health authority (SHA) or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

4. *Assessing growth through time*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.,

5. *Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Venous Thromboembolism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS acute trusts presenting no data or a nil-return in his Department's mandatory Venous Thromboembolism risk assessment data collection have received payments as part of the CQUIN National Goal; [49587]

(2) how many primary care trust CQUIN schemes have agreed with providers that sampled non-UNIFY data is acceptable as evidence towards the achievement of the Venous Thromboembolism CQUIN National Goal; [49588]

(3) which NHS acute trusts have received CQUIN payments for meeting the Venous Thromboembolism National Goal to date; [49589]

(4) which NHS acute trusts have received CQUIN payments for meeting the Venous Thromboembolism National Goal to date. [49590]

Mr Simon Burns: Assessing and rewarding achievement of both locally and nationally defined Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) goals is the responsibility of local commissioners as part of their contractual relationship with providers and the Department does not collect specific data on the achievement of CQUIN goals.

The National CQUIN goal on Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) 2010-11 is to ensure that 90% of admitted patients are risk assessed for VTE over three consecutive months. The period over which commissioners will assess achievement during 2010-11 is a matter for local negotiation between commissioners and providers, although published guidance states that achievement of the 90% must be over at least a full quarter to earn the related CQUIN payment. We understand that many providers are aiming to achieve the goal during the last quarter of 2010-11.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what reasons were given by *(a)* Derbyshire county, *(b)* Dorset, *(c)* Leicestershire county and Rutland, *(d)* Newham, *(e)* North East Essex, *(f)* Portsmouth City Teaching, *(g)* Sandwell, *(h)* Somerset, *(i)* South Birmingham, *(j)* South Staffordshire, *(k)* Tower Hamlets, *(l)* Walsall Teaching and *(m)* Worcestershire primary care trusts for not complying with the requirements of his Department's mandatory Venous Thromboembolism risk assessment data collection; and what steps he is taking to rectify this non-compliance; [49591]

(2) what reasons were given by *(a)* Milton Keynes hospital, *(b)* Oxford Radcliffe hospitals, *(c)* South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare and *(d)* University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts for not complying with the requirements of his Department's mandatory Venous Thromboembolism risk assessment data collection; and what steps he is taking to rectify this non-compliance. [49592]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department publishes the venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment data on a quarterly basis and the final data for 20010-11 are due to be published on 3 June 2011. Commissioners are able to access provider level data through UNIFY2 for management and audit purposes but the Department does not have plans to identify specific reasons for non-compliance or to rectify any non-compliance.

The data are published on the Department's website and if any trusts are not submitting data this will be transparent to commissioners, trusts and the public. It is for individual trusts to account for why they have been unable to provide on VTE risk assessment.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 30 March 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Clones

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to prohibit the sale of food from cloned animals and their descendants; and if she will make a statement. [49365]

Mr Paice: Food from cloned animals is currently regulated under the EU Novel Food Regulation and must be approved before it can be marketed. There have been no applications in any EU member states to authorise food from any cloned animals.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the European Food Safety Authority have advised that, for cattle and pigs, current evidence suggests that meat and milk from healthy clones or healthy descendants of clones is as safe as that from traditionally bred animals. The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes reached the same conclusion on 25 November 2010.

The Government's position is that a ban or temporary suspension on the sale of food from cloned animals and their descendants would be disproportionate in terms of food safety and animal welfare.

The Government consider that EU welfare legislation is sufficient to deal with any welfare issues that may arise for the clone or the surrogate dam.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what scientific evidence she has assessed on the effects of cloning on animal *(a)* health and welfare and *(b)* death rates for (i) cloned animals and (ii) surrogate mothers that carry them to birth; and if she will make a statement. [49366]

Mr Paice: The Government have assessed the 2009 report by the Commission's European Food Safety Authority and its update report published last year, which considered all aspects of animal cloning.

The Government recognise the potential welfare concerns highlighted in the 2009 report. However, we consider that EU welfare legislation provides the necessary protection to address any welfare issues that may arise for the clone or the surrogate dam. We also believe that the UK welfare codes and the breeding industry's positive attitude towards animal welfare provide a sound basis for the future.

Automatic Urban and Rural Network

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what review *(a)* process and *(b)* criteria her Department plans to use to decide which monitoring stations will be included in the Automatic Urban and Rural Network from 2011; and what opportunities for independent scrutiny of the process there will be; [49481]

(2) what review *(a)* process and *(b)* criteria her Department plans to use to decide which monitoring stations will be included in future reports to the European Commission on compliance with the EU limit values for ambient air quality from 2011; and what opportunities for independent scrutiny of the process there will be. [49482]

Richard Benyon: A 5-yearly assessment of the Automatic Urban and Rural National air quality monitoring network will be undertaken in 2011 in accordance with the requirements of the Air Quality Directive (AQD) (2008/50/EC), as set out in Articles 5, 6 and 7. The directive defines the steps to be undertaken in the process and the criteria on which assessment needs to be based. Once the review has been completed this will define the assessment regime to be used for compliance reporting for the next five years.

Where appropriate, local authorities will be engaged in the review. The outcome of the review will be reported as required to the Commission and will be made publically available.

Biofuels

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of biofuel production on grain costs. [49452]

Mr Paice: In 2010 DEFRA published a report on the causes of the 2007-08 agricultural price spikes, which included an annex: "The role of demand for biofuel in the agricultural commodity price spikes of 2007/08". This report is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/security/price.htm

Additionally, in 2008 DEFRA published the report "The impact of biofuels on commodity prices", reviewing the existing research on the impact of biofuels on commodity and food prices. This report is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/series/documents/impact-biofuels-commodities.pdf

Bovine Tuberculosis: Cattle

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the spread of bovine tuberculosis among cattle; and what proposals she plans to bring forward to prevent any further such spread. [49446]

Mr Paice: Tackling bovine TB is a key priority for the Government, and Ministers continue to have regular discussions about how to halt the spread of TB amongst cattle and bring the disease under control.

We received a large number of responses to our consultation on a badger control policy, which we are considering carefully. We will announce our decision and publish a comprehensive and balanced bovine TB eradication programme for England as soon as possible.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of vaccinating cattle against bovine tuberculosis; and if she will make a statement. [49580]

Mr Paice: Cattle vaccination is a potential long-term option for helping to control bovine TB and could have benefits in reducing the risk of infection and onward transmission of disease. However, a vaccine cannot guarantee that all cattle will be fully protected against TB and is therefore unlikely ever to be suitable for use as a sole eradication strategy. In addition, evidence suggests that without addressing the problem in the badger population, it will not be possible to eradicate TB in cattle.

DEFRA has invested around £18 million into the development of a cattle vaccine and associated diagnostic tools. There are still significant technical and regulatory challenges to overcome before a cattle vaccine would be available for widespread use. This includes the need to change EU legislation. We therefore anticipate that a cattle TB vaccine could not be used in the field before 2015 at the earliest.

Carbon Emissions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with their counterparts in (i) the Department for Energy and Climate Change and (ii) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the introduction of regulations to require mandatory carbon reporting by businesses by April 2012. [49962]

Mr Paice: The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my noble Friend Lord Henley, has had discussions with the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) and the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), who has responsibility for employment relations, and for consumer and postal affairs, on the matter of corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by businesses. The Secretary of State has not had discussions with these Ministers on this issue.

Farmers: Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage farmers to participate in local enterprise partnerships; and if she will make a statement. [49549]

Mr Paice: Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are locally-led organisations and it is for them to determine how best to work with local business interests, including representatives of the farming sector. In early engagement with some of the newly-formed LEPs, DEFRA officials have discussed how they might work with farmers. I would encourage all farmers, in particular through their representative groups, to engage with LEPs and we are aware that some are already doing so.

Food: Waste

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the level of avoidable food waste in the domestic food supply chain. [49267]

Richard Benyon: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) report, "Waste arisings in the supply of food and drink to households", published in March 2010, suggested that further work is required to identify the avoidable waste generated in the manufacturing, distribution and retail stages. However in this report WRAP estimated that the value of food and drink waste in supply chains is £5 billion annually.

Horses: Passports

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1218-19W, on horse passports, whether the 1.3 million equine passports currently issued matches *(a)* her Department's and *(b)* independent estimates of the UK equine population. [49565]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1219W. As of 31 December 2010 the National Equine Database (NED) held records for 1,275,317 equine passports issued in the UK. The British Equestrian Trade Association's National Equestrian Survey 2005-06 estimated the horse population of Great Britain to be 1.3 million. Direct comparisons between the two data sets are not possible.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1218-19W, on horse passports, for how long she plans to extend the current contract with National Equine Database (NED) Ltd; what plans she has for the future of *(a)* NED and *(b)* horse passports; and if she will make a statement. [49575]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is proposing to extend the contractual arrangements with the National Equine Database Ltd by a period of 18 months to allow time for a thorough review of the Government's requirements in respect of horse passports and associated data.

London Air Quality Network

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the London Air Quality Network monitoring stations at *(a)* Brent (Neasden Lane), *(b)* Bexley (Erith), *(c)* Ealing (Horn Lane) and (d) Lambeth (Bondway Interchange) will meet the criteria for the assessment of air quality set out in Annex III of EU Directive 2008/50/EC. [49479]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not carried out a review of whether the air quality monitoring stations the hon. Member refers to meet the assessment criteria of Directive 2008/50/EC. These monitoring stations belong to the local authorities and are used for the purposes of local air quality management.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what annual mean concentration of PM10 particulates *(a)* before and *(b)* after adjustment for natural sources her Department's time extension reapplication in May 2010 predicts for the calendar year 2011 at the London Air Quality Network monitoring stations at (i) Brent (Neasden Lane), (ii) Bexley (Erith), (iii) Ealing (Horn Lane) and (iv) Lambeth (Bondway Interchange). [49480]

Richard Benyon: The UK's 'time extension' notification was made in accordance with the assessment criteria in annex III of the directive 2008/50/EC. The four London Air Quality Network monitoring stations referred to—Brent (Neasden Lane), Bexley (Erith), Ealing (Horn Lane) and Lambeth (Bondway interchange)—are not part of the UK's national compliance network and therefore no calculations with respect to natural sources have been undertaken for data from these monitoring stations by DEFRA.

Modulation Payments

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of modulation payments collected in the UK which were spent in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [49552]

Mr Paice: The table shows the proportion of compulsory modulation payments collected and spent in the UK. Compulsory modulation applies across EU15 member states and its allocation is subject to an allocation key which ensures that at least 80% of the receipts are allocated to the member state in which it is collected. The table shows the amount of compulsory modulation deducted from UK direct payments between 2009 and 2012 and the corresponding amounts allocated to rural development programmes.

Voluntary modulation applies only in the UK, and all receipts are allocated to the programme for the region of the UK in which the voluntary modulation is collected.

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Modulation (€ million)	238.3	271.0	304.7	338.1
Allocation (€ million)	204.1	236.9	270.6	304
Percentage retained	86	87	89	90

Notes:

1. Over the period the UK retains 88% of its modulated funds, which is above the minimum threshold that requires at least 80% of modulated funds to remain with the member state in which they were generated.
2. The calculations are made with a lag of one year to reflect the fact modulated funds are allocated to rural development programmes the year after they are modulated.

Recycling: Plastics

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage the recycling of plastics. [49532]

Richard Benyon: The majority of plastic waste is generated in three areas: End-of-Life Vehicles, Construction and Packaging.

A target for recycling vehicles applies under the End-of-Life Vehicles (Producer Responsibility) Regulations 2005, which is currently set at 85%, and due to rise to 95% from 2015. Last year, a new facility was opened in Worksop processing the plastic content of automotive shredder residue with the help of a £1 million grant for business investment.

DEFRA has developed the Windows Sustainability Action Plan which contains a target for the collection and recycling of PVC in the Construction sector. The Site Waste Management Plans Regulations (2008) and the Waste and Resources Action Programme's 'Halving Waste to Landfill' commitment have helped to encourage waste prevention and recycling in the construction industry.

In 2009 24% of all plastic packaging was recycled but more needs to be done to increase this rate. Much of this material is valuable and there are a range of end markets for it. The current review of waste policy is looking at what steps should be taken to further encourage the recycling of plastic.

Waste Management

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the contribution of more effective management of food waste to reducing water use in each of the last four years. [49429]

Richard Benyon: The Waste and Resources Action programme has recently published a report, produced jointly with the World Wildlife Fund, entitled "'The Water and Carbon Footprint of Household Food and Drink Waste in the UK". This report finds that the water footprint of avoidable food waste in the UK is 6,200 million cubic metres per year, representing nearly 6% of the UK's water requirements. In per capita terms, this is 243 litres per person per day, approximately one and a half times the daily average household water use in the UK.

A quarter of this water footprint represents water used to grow and process food here in the UK, i.e. water from the UK's rivers, lakes and aquifers. The report includes case studies that illustrate the water footprint of three food products (wheat, tomatoes and beef) and two countries from which the UK imports food (Spain and Brazil). By preventing food waste from arising, these water-impacts can be avoided.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Beer: Competition

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to promote *(a)* employment and *(b)* economic growth in the brewing and public house sector. [49471]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting employment and growth in business generally and manufacturing in particular, including the brewing industry, by introducing more predictable and lower corporate taxes; cutting through the unnecessary red tape and regulation; increasing access to finance; and focusing on training and apprenticeships to ensure specialist skills are in good supply.

The brewing industry, like other business sectors, will benefit from a package of measures announced as part of Budget 2011 to promote growth in manufacturing, such as changes to capital allowances; helping firms commercialise technology; the development of a new degree-equivalent Higher Level Apprenticeship; and nine new university based centres for Innovative Manufacturing.

The public house sector will also benefit from government support that offers practical help on those issues that concern all businesses, such as taxation, regulation, and access to finance and on the challenges facing small businesses in particular, such as planning, business rates and access to broadband.

Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there is a time limit within which Government Departments must identify a regulation for removal following the introduction of a new regulation under the one-in, one-out rule. [49462]

Mr Prisk: One-in, one-out is measured on the net cost to business flowing from regulations, not on the number of regulations. The identification of ins and outs happens in parallel across Government. Outs must be a sufficient reduction in net cost to business to counter any new net cost to business created by the in. These figures need to be sufficient and accurate at the point of the final impact assessment for the in to ensure that the net costs to business from the in are fully offset by the proposed out.

Departments are allowed to 'bank' any reduction in the net cost to business from outs that are identified and implemented but which have not yet been used to compensate for an in.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small and medium-sized businesses in Mid Derbyshire constituency on the effects of proposed new regulations since his appointment. [49769]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has launched 34 written consultations since May 2010. These are available for viewing on the Department's internet site at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations

BIS seeks views on these from businesses from all regions and of all sizes, including those of small businesses. The specific information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48430]

Mr Davey: During the period May to September 2010 the Department spent £7,638.50 (exclusive of VAT) with our foliage suppliers, contracts which originally started in September 2003. The Department ended its foliage contracts with effect from 30 September 2010.

During the 2009-10 financial year, spend was as follows:

	£
Plantforce	20,511.53
PHS	1,350
Fleurtations	3,308.60

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the British Hallmarking Council; [48742]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body; [48743]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board; [48744]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property; [48745]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of SITPRO Ltd; [48746]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the eight Regional Development Agencies; [48747]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts; [48748]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Local Better Regulations Office; [48749]

(9) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Hearing Aid Council; [48750]

(10) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Copyright Tribunal; [48751]

(11) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of Consumer Focus; [48752]

(12) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of British Shipbuilders; [48753]

(13) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of British Nuclear Fuels Limited; [48754]

(14) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal; [48755]

(15) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of Postcomm and Ofcom; [48759]

(16) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Competition Commission and the Office of Fair Trading; [48760]

(17) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Central Arbitration Committee and the Certification Office. [48761]

Mr Willetts: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The following table sets out estimated cumulative net administrative savings from structural reforms to BIS's public bodies over the spending review period.

These are our best current estimates of net administrative savings and are dependent upon factors such as the individual timetables for implementation—many of which require the Public Bodies Bill and subsequent secondary legislation.

Public body reform	*Estimated cumulative net administrative savings over the spending review period*
Change in function of the British Hallmarking Council	£48,000
Abolition of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body	£40,000
Abolition of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board	No savings to the Exchequer
Abolition of the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property	No savings to the Exchequer
Abolition of SITPRO Ltd	£1.9 million
Abolition of eight regional development agencies	£727.7 million
Abolition of the Local Better Regulation Office	£560,000
Abolition of the Hearing Aid Council	No savings to the Exchequer
Abolition of Consumer Focus	Potential savings not yet quantified
Abolition of British Shipbuilders	£52,000
Abolition of British Nuclear Fuels Limited	No savings to the Exchequer
Abolition of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal	No savings to the Exchequer
Merger of Postcomm and Ofcom	Potential savings not yet quantified
Merger of the Central Arbitration Committee and the Certification Office	£650,000[1]

[1] We do not expect the overall budget for the new organisation to change In real cash terms over the SR period. The savings identified above reflect static cash spend when measured against estimated inflation.

We estimate that annual savings from the merger of the Competition Commission and the competition functions of the Office of Fair Trading would be between £3.5 million and £6.8 million, with a best estimate of £5.1 million, but that there would be a one-off transitional cost for which our best estimate is £6.8 million.

We intend to change the status of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts so it is no longer a non-departmental public body, and establish it as an independent charity. While financial savings were not the driver for this change in status, it is likely to lead to some savings, though they have not yet been quantified.

We are considering changing the status of the Copyright Tribunal so that it is no longer a non-departmental public body, and jurisdiction of the tribunal is moved into the Ministry of Justice's Tribunals Service. Any potential savings have not yet been quantified.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48450]

Mr Davey: During the period May 2010 to March 2011 the Department's records show that four prints were reported as lost or stolen with an estimated total value of £5,500. After investigation three prints with an estimated value of £4,000 were recovered.

Diamond Resorts International

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations the Secretary of State has received from hon. and right hon. Members in the last three years on the operation of Diamond Resorts International; and what the purpose was of each such representation. [49494]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Department has received 20 representations from hon. Members since the beginning of 2008. Correspondents have sought to draw the Government's attention to, and to seek help or advice in respect of timeshare contracts which their constituents have entered into, and the way in which Diamond Resorts International seek to enforce them.

Employment Rights

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people worked on the enforcement of employment rights and related protections in the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate in each of the last five years; how many people he expects to work on such matters in that body in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [47434]

Mr Davey: The number of staff working on enforcement of employment rights and related protection in the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate, on 1 April for each of the last five years, were:

	Staff
2006-07	19
2007-08	19
2008-09	19
2009-10	30
2010-11	28

No formal allocations have been made for the next financial year or beyond.

Training: English Language

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much his Department allocated for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in 2010-11; and how much it plans to allocate in 2011-12; [49519]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of changes in funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses on adult and community learning; [49521]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of financial barriers on participation in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; [49522]

(4) whether his Department has undertaken an equality impact assessment on proposed changes to funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [49523]

Mr Hayes: In the 2010-11 academic year we introduced increased freedoms for Further Education colleges and training organisations giving them increased flexibilities to determine the balance and mix of the provision they offer and the route through which this is delivered.

Building on this, Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) confirmed that from the 2011/12 academic year there will be a single adult skills budget. This allocation can be used to support the delivery of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision, but there is no separate allocation of funding for ESOL.

As part of the spending review tough decisions about departmental budgets have been taken and, like all other areas, FE has made its contribution. This has included reviewing the extent to which automatic fee remission for adult skills is provided, and in this context we have prioritised ESOL funding to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for other people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. Increased freedoms and flexibilities for providers will allow them to respond to the needs to their communities and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

The equality impact assessment published alongside Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by my Department, and I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course. A review of informal, mainly unaccredited, adult and community learning (IACL) is also currently under way, with implementation of any changes beginning in the 12/13 academic year.

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* working tax credit, *(c)* income support, *(d)* council tax credit and *(e)* pension credit are enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses with (i) full and (ii) partial fee remission provided by his Department. [49520]

Mr Hayes: We collect information on learners who receive full fee remission for any government funded learning they undertake. We do not collect information on learners who have received partial fee remission. From those data, we can identify learners who have received full fee remission due to being in receipt of working tax credit, income-based state benefits and pension guarantee credit. Information for those in receipt of housing benefit, income support and council tax credit is not directly recorded in the system.

From those data we can provide some information on learners in receipt of a range of benefits but this should be used with caution given it neither provides an accurate picture about the level of learners who are also benefit claimants nor what other learning and or benefit entitlements that person might also have.

Table 1 as follows shows the number of adults participating on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course who received full fee remission due to being in receipt of working tax credit, income-based state benefit and pension guarantee credit. Data are shown for 2009/10, the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Table 1: Number of adults participating on ESOL courses who were in receipt of full fee-remission due to being in receipt of working tax credit, income-based state benefit and pension guarantee credit 2009/10 (near-final data)

	Total
In receipt of working tax credit	27,490
In receipt of an income-based state benefit	36,290
In receipt of pension guarantee credit	1,330

Notes:

1. This data covers participation in Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data is collected and how funded learners are defined. More information on demand led funding is available at: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

TRANSPORT

Coastguards: Scotland

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements have been put in place in respect of lone working at *(a)* Fife Ness coastguard station and *(b)* other coastguard stations in Scotland. [49714]

Mike Penning: There is no expectation that staff working at a maritime rescue co-ordination centre will be in a situation where lone working is necessary.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vacancies there are for watchmen at Fife Ness coastguard station. [49715]

Mike Penning: As of 28 March 2011 there are six vacancies at the Forth Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre; two are for coastguard watch assistants, three for watch officers and one for a watch manager.

Commission for Integrated Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* costs will be incurred and *(b)* savings will be made from abolishing the Commission for Integrated Transport in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [46485]

Norman Baker: The exact costs and savings from abolishing the Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT) will depend on the nature of the successor arrangements which are developed. We currently estimate that the abolition of CfIT will result in projected savings over the spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15) of around £3.9 million from net administration savings, compared with the baseline of the last full year of CfIT in 2009-10.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of Cycling England. [48687]

Norman Baker: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 86W. This is our best current estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of Cycling England.

Departmental Responsibilities

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what functions and responsibilities have been transferred from his Department and the non-departmental bodies responsible to him to other bodies since 11 May 2010; *(a)* from and *(b)* to whom the functions and responsibilities were transferred in each case; and what transfer of funds was made in each case. [46474]

Norman Baker: There have been no functions and responsibilities transferred from the Department for Transport and its non-departmental public bodies since 11 May 2010.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to take steps to increase line speeds on rail services between Swansea and Cardiff. [45223]

Mrs Villiers: The route between Cardiff and Swansea contains various characteristics which impact on journey times, including a number of curves, gradients and low speed junctions. Many of these would be difficult to address without major engineering work. There are no plans for such work to be carried out in the current control period which ends in 2014.

However, the electrification of the Great Western Main Line and the delivery of the new train fleet will reduce journey times for passengers between Swansea and London by 20 minutes to two hours and 39 minutes from the end of 2017.

This journey time saving will benefit passengers in Swansea and enhance the attractiveness of the area for inward investment.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has considered the merits of including a direct link to Heathrow airport in Stage 1 of the proposed High Speed 2 scheme. [49707]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 29 March 2011]*: The report provided to Government by HS2 Ltd on options for a direct link to Heathrow considered the case for such a link both as part of an initial London-West Midlands line and as part of a Y-shaped national high speed rail network. This report is available online at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/proposedroute/routesupplement/pdf/routesupplement.pdf

The Government's proposed strategy is set out in the consultation document, High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future, available on the HS2 consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

High Speed Two

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what basis households and businesses along the proposed High Speed 2 route were selected to receive a letter from HS2 Ltd notifying them of forthcoming roadshows. [49925]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd posted letters to residents and businesses within 1 km either side of the proposed line of route and within 250 metres either side of the proposed tunnels. Letters were sent to all of the households and businesses in post code areas intersected by these 'corridors' around the proposed route.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many households along the High Speed 2 route were sent a letter by HS2 Ltd dated 2 March 2011 in respect of roadshows. [49924]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd sent letters to 172,174 households and business premises.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* printing the High Speed 2 (HS2) personalised envelopes sent to households along the proposed HS2 scheme route, *(b)* printing the letters sent to households along the HS2 scheme route and *(c)* postage for the letters sent to households along the HS2 route in order to notify inhabitants of the forthcoming roadshows. [49927]

Mr Philip Hammond: The information requested is as follows:

The cost of printing 172,174 envelopes was £4,470;

The cost of printing 172,174 letters was £4,403;

The cost of posting 172,174 letters was £28,716.54

High Speed Two: Costs

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the projected costs the Government will incur on the High Speed Two programme in each of the next five years. [49935]

Mr Philip Hammond: The 'Economic Case for HS2', available on the HS2 consultation website, sets out the Government's estimates of the overall costs of both its proposed Y-shaped high speed rail network, and the proposed initial London-west midlands phase.

For the four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15, the spending review settlement includes approximately £773 million to fund the development of the Government's proposals for a high speed rail network from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.

Subject to the outcome of the current consultation, annual expenditure over the spending review period is currently estimated to be as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	166
2012-13	213
2013-14	140
2014-15	255

Expenditure in years of 2014-15 will be dependent on the results of future spending reviews.

High Speed Two: Manpower

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are employed by HS2 Ltd; what roles they undertake; and what remuneration they receive. [49710]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* As of 25 March 2011, HS2 Ltd had 28 permanent members of staff. A further 27 people were seconded to HS2 Ltd, including 18 from the Department for Transport. In addition, HS2 Ltd had 21 people on temporary contracts.

Roles occupied by the above include route engineers, operations specialists, project and programme planners, economists, communications and consultation officers, environmental specialists and support staff in finance, human resources and administration.

The remuneration of the chief executive is published on the DfT website as part of the Government's transparency agenda and can be found at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/staff/salarydisclosure/

Permanent members of staff are remunerated on salary scales that were established on the basis of an independently conducted market survey. In addition to salary, employees may opt to join a stakeholder pension scheme in which HS2 Ltd matches employee contributions up to a maximum of 5%.

Secondees are remunerated on the basis of their host organisation structures.

Temporary staff are remunerated by their respective agencies on rates that are established through central Government procurement contracts.

Members: Correspondence

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 February 2011 from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye on the Hastings to Bexhill link road. [44854]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* I can confirm that my response to the hon. Lady's letter dated 9 February 2011 was dispatched on 25 March 2011.

Network Rail: Contracts

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the savings Network Rail will make as a result of widening the pool of suppliers involved in infrastructure work in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [46650]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is tasked to deliver the value for money needed to meet the output and efficiency targets for the operation, maintenance and renewal of the national network set by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

The contractual arrangements for infrastructure work on the railway are commercial matters between Network Rail and the infrastructure companies. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to her question:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG.

High Speed Rail

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to ensure that the High Speed Rail consultation roadshow locations are held *(a)* in accessible venues and *(b)* at times of the day likely to maximise public participation. [49926]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd carefully considered the placement of events along and around the proposed line of route; 30 events are being held over 40 days, specifically including areas where HS2 Ltd was aware of significant interest in the proposals. Ease of accessibility from the surrounding areas was prioritised, so that the events could be attended by as wide a community as possible. Event locations were discussed and agreed with local councils.

HS2 Ltd has organised two types of event, according to the location and locally available facilities. Exhibitions are being held in areas with a large catchment area and where an adequately sized venue was available. Smaller trailer exhibitions are being held where it is not physically possible to hold an exhibition, or where there is likely to be a lower level of attendance. This aims to provide reasonable equality of access to information between urban and rural locations.

To ensure that the road shows are available to a wide range of people with different work schedules and commitments, they are opening for 12 hours on weekdays, beginning at 8 am and closing at 8 pm. At weekends road shows will be open between 9 am and 5 pm.

Railways: Fees and Charges

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse from allowing train operating companies to have flexible regulated rail fares; [47120]

(2) what financial saving there will be to his Department from allowing train operating companies to have flexible regulated rail fares in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [46498]

Mrs Villiers: The previous Government decided to remove the 5% flexibility for one year. The underlying contracts are unchanged. Reversion to the normal arrangements does not therefore involve a saving to the Government.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial provision his Department has made for the cost of the private finance initiative project for Intercity Express Programme trains in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [46333]

Mrs Villiers: The costs of the payments made to Agility Trains under the Intercity Express Programme for all of those years will be zero. Payments will only be made to the train service provider once the trains have entered revenue-earning service, from 2016.

Thameslink Railway Line: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial provisions his Department has made for private finance initiative contracts for Thameslink for the period after 2014-15; and what proportion this constitutes of his Department's provision for private finance initiative projects in that period. [46496]

Mrs Villiers: Provision has been made within the Department for Transport's forward forecasts for delivery of the full 24 train per hour railway, including the leasing of up to 1,200 new rail vehicles.

Thameslink is not classified as part of the private finance initiative. Network Rail is constructing the infrastructure and the Department is procuring rolling stock through a form of leasing arrangement.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's budget for Thameslink is for each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [46497]

Mrs Villiers: The costs for the infrastructure element of the Thameslink Programme are included in the payments made to Network Rail in the form of a Network Grant which covers the capital investment of all renewals and enhancements.

With respect to the Department's direct programme costs and incremental franchise change costs for Thameslink, financial provision has been made as shown in the following table.

	£ million
2010-11	70
2011-12	84
2012-13	62
2013-14	107
2014-15	111

JUSTICE

Fraud: Jobseeker's Allowance

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in Airdrie and Shotts constituency were prosecuted for offences relating to fraudulent claims for jobseeker's allowance in each of the last three years. [48823]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available, as to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Prosecutions in Scotland are the responsibility of the Procurator Fiscal, and data are not collated centrally.

Discrimination

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will estimate the costs incurred by the courts in the pursuit of separate actions in cases before tribunals or courts where the same litigant raised issues of discrimination against another litigant on any two of the grounds of *(a)* gender, *(b)* race, *(c)* nationality, *(d)* sexual orientation, *(e)* religious belief and *(f)* disability in each of the last four years; [49731]

(2) in how many cases before tribunals or courts the same litigant raised issues of discrimination against another litigant on any two of the grounds of *(a)* gender, *(b)* race, *(c)* nationality, *(d)* sexual orientation, *(e)* religious belief and *(f)* disability in each of the last four years. [49796]

Mr Djanogly: Under the Equality Act 2010, the term 'protected characteristic' is used to describe one or more of the following characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/paternity, race (which includes nationality), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. An individual who thinks he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of a protected characteristic may bring a claim to a court or employment tribunal, depending on the nature of the claim.

Information on claims made to the civil courts in England and Wales about discrimination is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the employment context, where a person feels they have experienced discrimination due to more than one protected characteristic, they may submit an employment tribunal claim which contains more than one jurisdictional complaint, for example a claim for sex and race discrimination. There is no restriction to the number of jurisdictional complaints that can be included in the claim; however, where a claim does contain more than one jurisdictional complaint, although treated as individual complaints, they tend to be heard together by one tribunal panel.

No calculation of the average cost of Employment Tribunal appeals is available because of the significant variations which occur in the duration of hearings within jurisdictions and individual cases, and the consequent difficulty in producing an accurate overall figure. For this reason it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the additional costs incurred in cases involving more than one issue of discrimination.

The following table sets out the number of cases submitted to employment tribunals that include discrimination complaints under two or more of the protected characteristics listed in the question for each in the last four completed financial years.

Number of cases with multiple discrimination jurisdictions[1]

	Number of multiple discrimination jurisdictions[2]				
Financial year	*Two jurisdictions*	*Three jurisdictions*	*Four jurisdictions*	*Five jurisdictions*	*Total*
2006-07	1,600	180	22	7	1,800
2007-08	1,700	220	22	28	1,900
2008-09	2,000	270	27	37	2,300
2009-10	2,200	340	31	9	2,500
Total	7,400	1,000	100	81	8,600

[1] The jurisdictions asked about and included in the reported data are:
Gender;
Race (including nationality);
Sexual Orientation;
Religious Belief;
Disability.
[2] Each figure in the table is rounded independently and thus may not add to totals. The following conventions have been used:
Values less than 100 remain as unit values;
Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to the nearest ten;
Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to the nearest hundred.
Source:
ET Central database March 2011

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the likely effect of not implementing the dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010 on the number of separate claims for discrimination before tribunals or courts in each of the next four years. [49811]

Mr Djanogly: The Government do not expect that there will be any direct impact on the number of separate (single-characteristic) claims flowing from the non-implementation of the Equality Act's dual discrimination provisions.

Legal Aid: West Midlands

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in (a) Wolverhampton North East constituency and (b) the West Midlands received legal aid in each of the last five years. [49758]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

We are re-examining the data in respect of all of the constituencies and I will write separately with this information.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities who will be responsible for preparing the UK's seventh periodic report under Article 18 of the

Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and what plans she has for consultation with civil society organisations in the preparation of this report. [49759]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is responsible for overseeing the UK's commitments to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and leads across Government in co-ordinating the UK's Periodic Report to the CEDAW Committee, in preparation for submission of the 7th Periodic Report, we organised a national public consultation event last November with UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which I attended with the Minister for Women and Equalities, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May). Officials have also met with NGO stakeholders and supported NGO consultation events in the Devolved Nations.

TREASURY

Banks: Crown Dependencies

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking following the collapse of the Crown Currency Exchange to prevent similar collapses. [49896]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Member to my letter to every Member of the House on 18 November 2010.

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Financial Services Authority and *(b)* Barclays Bank on the (i) regulation and (ii) collapse of Crown Currency Exchange. [49897]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to every Member of the House to set out the Government's position on Crown Currency Exchange on 18 November 2010.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Child Benefit

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many single income families will be affected by the removal of child benefit from households containing a higher-rate taxpayer in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each constituency. [44861]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* It is estimated that around 180,000 single-income families in the UK will have their annual income reduced as a result of the proposed changes to child benefit in 2012-13. These households are all within the top 20% of household incomes.

Reliable estimates at the regional and parliamentary constituency level are not available for this group.

Child Care Support

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what cost savings would accrue to the Exchequer from restricting *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit to three children only for children born after 1 January 2012 in each year from 2012-13 to 2020-21; and if he will make a statement. [49434]

Mr Gauke: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Child Benefit: Lone Parents

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne North of 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 39W, how many single parent families in the UK he expects to have their annual income reduced as a result of the proposed changes to child benefit. [44574]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* It is estimated that around 55,000 single-parent families in the UK will have their annual income reduced as a result of the proposed changes to child benefit in 2012-13. These households are all within the top 20% of households.

Child Care Support

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of the decision to reduce the rate of childcare support from 80% to 70% on the weekly income of families *(a)* in each income decile and *(b)* with each number of children. [43459]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* No estimate has been made.

The reduction of child care support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate of the change *(a)* in weekly cash income and *(b)* in proportion of weekly income for families in each income decile of the decision to remove the baby element from the child tax credit from April 2011. [43567]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* No estimate has been made.

The removal of the baby element is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the emergency Budget.

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

Conditions of Employment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people worked on the enforcement of employment rights and related protections in HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years; how many people he expects to work on such matters in that body in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [47436]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff working in compliance teams on the enforcement of the national minimum wage within HMRC in each of the last five years is in the following table:

At April	*Staff in post*
2006	110
2007	109
2008	122
2009	125
2010	129

No estimate of future staff numbers is available as HMRC is currently considering future resource requirements for 2011-12 and beyond, in the context of the comprehensive spending review.

Corporate Bond Market

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the potential for small and medium-sized businesses to access funds from the corporate bond market; and if he will make a statement. [49872]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The corporate bond markets are generally only a financing option for larger companies and are not suitable for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as the Government set out in the "Financing a Private Sector Recovery" Green Paper last year.

However, as set out in "The Plan for Growth" published alongside the Budget, the Government will continue to support industry-led developments to improve access to bond markets for midcap businesses, which have a higher turnover than SMEs.

Defence: Finance

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to announce his decision in respect of the Ministry of Defence's Planning Round 11. [49630]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence's spending plans were published in the spending review, which set out plans to reduce expenditure by 8% over the next four years. The Ministry of Defence will announce the conclusions of the planning round in due course.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the Cycle to Work scheme. [49581]

Mr Gauke: The Cycle to Work scheme provides an exemption from income tax on the benefit in kind created when an employer hires cycles or cycling safety equipment to an employee. The Government have no plans to change this exemption. In the Budget the Government announced their intention to abolish the separate tax relief that is currently available where employers provide breakfasts to cyclists on designated cycle to work days, as recommended by the Office of Tax Simplification.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48423]

Justine Greening: The cost of the provision and maintenance of indoor plants within the 1 Horse Guards Road building between 1 May 20.10 and 28 February 2011 was £7,423. The contract covering the provision and maintenance of the outdoor plants and trees is part of a wider maintenance contract in place since 2002 and the element applicable to outdoor plants and trees is not separately identifiable.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* job title on departure and *(b)* payband was of each senior civil servant in HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors who resigned to take up a position with (i) Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG or Ernst and Young and (ii) a FTSE 100 company in each of the last six years. [49959]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs holds data on the number of applications from senior civil servants who sought approval to take up an outside appointment for this year and the previous two years only.

Details are as follows:

2008-09

Strategic Response Unit, SCS1 to (i) Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG or Ernst and Young

2009-10

Deputy Director Specialist International, SCS1A to (i) Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG or Ernst and Young

Chief People Officer, SCS3 to (ii) a FTSE 100 company

HRD Transformation Project, SCS1 to (ii) a FTSE 100 company

HR Director Corporate Services, SCS1 to (ii) a FTSE 100 company

2010-11

Assistant Director, Low Income and Diversity, SCS1 to (i) Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG or Ernst and Young.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the effect of *(a)* price elasticity in the (i) on-trade and (ii) off-trade and *(b)* pass-through rates of alcohol duty on (A) levels of employment and (B) receipts to the Exchequer. [49473]

Justine Greening: Price elasticities for both the on and off trade are used to assess the impact on receipts from changes to alcohol duty rates.

HMRC research on price elasticities is published in the following technical paper:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/alcohol-consumption-uk.pdf

As part of the Budget process, macroeconomic effects such as employment are considered for the whole package of economic measures, including estimates of alcohol duty receipts. The Office of Budget Responsibility's 'Economic and fiscal outlook', published on 23 March 2011, estimates that total employment will rise by 900,000 between 2010 and 2015.

Excise Duties: Beer

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of *(a)* levels on employment and *(b)* revenue to the Exchequer of (i) retaining beer duty at the level in force on 22 March 2011 and (ii) changing it in line with the 2011 Budget proposals. [49472]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 35W.

Income Tax

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the number of people paying income tax at the 40 per cent. rate with effect from 5 April 2011 in each region. [43460]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* In the June 2010 Budget, it was estimated that 880,000 persons would be taken out of tax in 2011-12 as a result of the above indexation increase in the personal allowance to £7,475.

The number of higher rate income taxpayers is projected to increase by 600,000 in 2011-12. A breakdown by region is provided in the following table.

Thousand

Government Office Region	*2011-12*	*2010-11*	*Change*
North East	100	80	20
North West	311	252	59
Yorkshire and Humberside	224	183	41
East Midlands	228	187	41
West Midlands	248	204	44
East of England	412	347	65
London	656	566	90
South East	707	605	102
South West	287	232	55
Wales	115	93	22
Scotland	281	234	47
Northern Ireland	62	51	11
Total[1]	3,660	3,060	600

[1] Includes some taxpayers who reside abroad or region is not known.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of personal incomes projected to 2010-11 and 2011-12 in line with the Office of Budget Responsibility's November 2010 economic and fiscal outlook.

Insolvency

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses were entered into insolvency by HM Revenue and Customs in each *(a)* region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency since May 2010. [44862]

Mr Gauke: The number of bankruptcy and winding up orders granted to HMRC in England and Wales from May 2010 to December 2010 was approximately 3,100.

The other information is not available in the format requested.

HMRC takes a sympathetic approach to both individuals and businesses that have genuine short-term difficulties in paying the tax they owe. In such cases HMRC will aim to come to an arrangement to give time to pay and so avoid taking action that might lead to an otherwise viable business—or individual—being declared insolvent by the courts.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 17 February 2011 on Mr J Taylor. [49774]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Monetary Policy

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the *(a)* short and *(b)* long-term effects of quantitative easing on levels of employment. [49083]

Justine Greening: Quantitative easing (QE) through the asset purchase facility provides the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England with another tool, in addition to reductions in bank rate, to support nominal demand in order to meet the inflation target in the medium term.

The bank's May 2009 inflation report explains how asset purchases work to stimulate nominal spending along various channels. The bank's analysis, for example in the Quarterly Bulletin 2011 Q1, is that QE has had a positive impact along these channels.

National Asset Management Agency

Ben Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what conditions were placed on the loan facility extended to the government of the Republic of Ireland relating to the sale or release of property assets in the UK owned by the National Asset Management Agency; [49377]

(2) what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Republic of Ireland on the sale and release of assets in the UK owned by the National Asset Management Agency. [49378]

Mr Hoban: The conditions of the bilateral loan were set out in the loan agreement placed in the library of the Houses of Parliament on 10th January 2011:

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2011/DEP2011-0015.pdf

The mandate for the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) was set by the Irish Government under Irish legislation. NAMA's role has been set out in agreement with international partners in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Irish Government and the International Monetary Fund, European Commission and the European Central Bank.

The Government maintain a dialogue with the Irish authorities on a wide range of issues in respect of the financial crisis. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not this Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

National Insurance: Databases

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the National Insurance and PAYE Service holds a computer record for every individual for whom a national insurance number has been issued; [49599]

(2) how many individual records have been added to the National Insurance and PAYE Service system since it went online. [49600]

Mr Gauke: DWP holds a computer record for every individual for whom a national insurance number (NINO) has been issued.

HMRC systems reflect the population of adults who have an active record and estimates approximately one million new NINO records are added to the system in each fiscal year.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of progress in the introduction of a real-time information system to the National Insurance and PAYE Service computer system; and whether he expects it to be in operation by spring 2012. [49602]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has made good progress in developing the new Real Time Information system. This includes the completion of a public consultation and the submission of requirements to its IT suppliers in line with plans. I expect HMRC to be in a position to pilot the Real Time Information system with employers, pension providers and payroll bureaux from the spring of 2012.

Oil: Excise Duties

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the forecast of future oil prices on which he based his assessment of the fiscal effects of his proposed changes to fuel duty. [49422]

Justine Greening: *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published its latest 'Economic and fiscal outlook' on 23 March 2011, which can be found online at:

http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

The oil prices used by the OBR to produce their economic and fiscal forecasts are set out on page 95, in Table 4.3: Determinants of the fiscal forecast.

Personal Taxation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the effect on the average annual level of income tax payable by an individual in the *(a)* 20 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. band of income tax if personal taxation allowances were linked to the retail price index in each of the next four financial years; [49770]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of linking personal taxation allowances to the retail price index in each of the next four financial years. [49795]

Mr Gauke: Income tax allowances are not linked to consumer price index (CPI) during the years in question (2012-13 to 2015-16. Only national insurance contribution (NICs) rates and thresholds are linked to CPI from 2012-13 onwards (excluding the Secondary Threshold for employer Class 1 NICs).

The only change to income tax allowances from 2012-13 is the £630 cash increase to the personal allowance (PA), for individuals under 65, with an equal decrease in the basic rate limit (BRL). This leaves the higher rate threshold (the sum of the PA and BRL) unchanged.

The following is a link to the 2011 Budget Report Overview:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/overview.pdf

The PA increase is explained on Page A24 with relevant Exchequer impacts.

Tax Yields

John Cryer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue to the Exchequer to accrue from the application of a surcharge of 15% on unearned investment income over £7,000 in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [49488]

Mr Gauke: Total investment income exceeding the specified £7,000 threshold across individuals is estimated at £42.7 billion in 2009-10 and £43.5 billion in 2010-11.

These estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2007-08, projected in line with the Office of Budget Responsibility's November 2010 economic and fiscal outlook.

An additional charge of 15% on this income would give rise to substantial behavioural effects. Estimates of the behavioural responses to changes in tax rates on investment income, and hence overall impacts on tax revenues, are not available.

Taxation: Self-assessment

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will remove the rules that prevent pay as you earn employees who have been taxed at an incorrect code transferring the overpayment and setting it against their self-assessment liabilities. [49548]

Mr Gauke: Customers in receipt of PAYE income and who are required to complete an annual self-assessment tax return have their total taxable income (from all sources) and resultant tax liability calculated under self-assessment and not as part of the annual PAYE end of year reconciliation process.

Working Tax Credit: Lone Parents

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the effect on the number of single parents in employment of the reduction in the child care element of working tax credits. [47048]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made.

The reduction of child care support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

There are interactions between the measures so estimating the impact of just one measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on households.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Nationality

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring forward proposals for further substantial changes to the rules for obtaining settlement and citizenship in the UK as indicated in November 2010. [49943]

Damian Green: The Government will consult on proposals to break the link between temporary migration and permanent settlement later this year.

Children: Protection

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of the alleged child abuse suspects identified by the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre in March 2011 would not have been subject to the proposed revision to the regime for criminal record checks. [49298]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 28 March 2011]*: On 11 February Sunita Mason, the Independent Advisor for Criminality Information Management, published her report on the Criminal Records Regime. We are carefully considering her recommendations.

Changes proposed in the protection of freedoms Bill will not change the current eligibility for criminal records checks. Legal requirements for checks will continue to apply in the education and health sectors, and for people working with children on a less frequent basis, employers will still have discretion to request a check.

We cannot comment on individual cases that form part of an investigation by the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Forensic Science Service. [48681]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has been making huge financial losses and we are determined to make the managed closure as cost effective to the taxpayer as possible. We are actively seeking to reduce the cost to the taxpayer such as through the sale of FSS assets and transfer of staff.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Criminal Records Bureau. [48808]

Lynne Featherstone: The reviews of the Criminal Records Regime and Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) recommended that a single new body be created to carry out both criminal records disclosure and barring functions. The details of this new organisation have yet to be finalised and we will be taking a careful and considered approach to its formation.

There is potential to realise efficiencies by delivering a new proportionate criminal records regime, however, the planning for this is currently in its early stages.

DNA: Databases

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with officials in her Department on the process of loading batches of samples to the National DNA Database; how many samples are contained in each batch loaded to the database; whether such batches can be split retrospectively after loading; and if she will make a statement. [48098]

James Brokenshire: I have had no recent discussions with officials on this issue.

DNA samples are not added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD); the samples are analysed and converted into a numerical DNA sample profile which is then added to the NDNAD. DNA sample profile records are submitted to the NDNAD in electronic 'Analytical Results Files'.

The number of DNA sample profiles in each of these electronic files depends on the processes used by the submitting DNA Forensic Supplier. Each file can contain between one and 1,000 DNA sample profile records. On receipt, the batch file will be copied into a folder within the NDNAD Confidential Network by an NDNAD operator. The NDNAD system then processes the batch file, as a whole, automatically. Batch files are not split retrospectively after receipt by the NDNAD. Any alterations to a batch file would result in it failing to load onto the NDNAD.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of her proposals to remove certain DNA profiles from the National DNA Database. [48099]

James Brokenshire: We estimate that implementing our proposals for the deletion from the National DNA Database of the DNA profiles of those arrested but not convicted of an offence and the destruction of biological DNA samples will have a one-off cost of £4.8 million.

Further details of these costs are contained in the impact assessment produced for the Protection of Freedoms Bill which can be found on Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/legislation/freedom-bill/pof-bill-ia

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will be responsible for *(a)* taking possession of DNA profile material and *(b)* supervising the destruction of records following the closure of the Forensic Science Service. [48172]

James Brokenshire: As part of the managed closure process we will ensure steps are taken to safeguard records and prevent any break in continuity when the company ceases trading. We will also ensure records are destroyed where appropriate.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the closure of the Forensic Science Service on the Government's plans to remove profiles from the National DNA Database; [48173]

(2) what *(a)* funding and *(b)* staff she plans to allocate for the removal of DNA profiles from the National DNA Database following the closure of the Forensic Science Service. [48160]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) and other forensic science providers derive DNA profiles from biological samples taken by the police and submit them to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) for loading onto the NDNAD. It is the profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) that are the primary focus of the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Consideration is currently being given to the destruction of profiling records held by all forensic suppliers. The NPIA is already working on the implementation of the Bill and, on the assumption that the Bill receives Royal Assent by early 2012, plans will already be in place to implement the legislation.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her proposals for removal of DNA profiles from the National DNA Database contemplate the removal from the database of all records associated with a DNA sample. [48905]

James Brokenshire: Where the Government's proposals in the Protection of Freedoms Bill would result in a person's numerical DNA profile being removed from the National DNA Database, all other associated records will also be removed from that database.

In addition to our proposals in respect of the removal of DNA profiles from the National DNA Database, we propose that all biological DNA samples will be destroyed within six months of being taken.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to undertake a review of the Sojourner Project; and if she will make a statement. [49750]

Damian Green: A full, independent evaluation of the pilot is currently underway, led by the charity Against Violence and Abuse. This evaluation is due to report in the spring.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Sojourner Project; and if she will make a statement. [49751]

Damian Green: The Sojourner Project started on 29 November 2009. An internal, interim evaluation of the pilot was conducted when the pilot had been in existence for three months. This provided an opportunity for the Home Office and the UK Border Agency to understand the emerging findings arising from the pilot to help inform any future developments in this policy area.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the merits of extending the 20-day limit for applications for indefinite leave to remain from women accepted on the Sojourner Project; and if she will make a statement. [49752]

Damian Green: From April 2011 the Home Office will provide a total of 50 days funding for those accepted on the Sojourner Project; 30 days for the claimant to submit an application under the Domestic Violence provisions and 20 days for the UK Border Agency to reach a decision on the application.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain were made within the 20-day limit by women accepted on to the Sojourner Project; and if she will make a statement. [49753]

Damian Green: Figures[1] from the beginning of the Sojourner Project (November 2009) indicate that 23% of applications for indefinite leave to remain on the basis of domestic violence were submitted to the UK Border Agency within the 20 day limit by applicants accepted onto the Sojourner project.

We have recognised that applicants face difficulties in gathering and submitting the necessary evidence within the initial 20 day period. That is why we have chosen to extend the funding period which a person who has been accepted onto the Sojourner project is eligible to receive.

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[1] The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what proportion of cases the UK Border Agency met the 20-day target for the processing of applications for indefinite leave to remain in domestic violence cases in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [49754]

Damian Green: The information is as follows:

Figures for the latest period, January 2011, show that the UK Border Agency met the 20 day target for processing applications for indefinite leave to remain as a victim of domestic violence in 74% of cases.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Domestic Violence: Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an estimate has been made of the number of those who experience domestic violence who have committed suicide; and if she will make a statement. [49745]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect data on the number of people who experience domestic violence who have committed suicide. However, according to the British Crime Survey, in 3% of incidents of partner abuse in 2008-09, the victim tried to commit suicide.

European Gendarmerie Force

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy not to consent to the deployment of the European Gendarmerie force on UK territory. [49844]

James Brokenshire: There have been no European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) personnel deployed in the UK and the Government currently see no circumstances in which they would consent to an EGF operation in the UK. The EGF is a multinational initiative of six countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Romania) aimed at improving crisis management capability in sensitive areas and supporting peacekeeping missions around the world. The UK is not part of this initiative.

Metals: Sales

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to prohibit payments in cash for supplies of scrap metal. [49153]

James Brokenshire: We are exploring the feasibility, with the ACPO Conductive Metal Theft Working Group, of introducing a non-statutory cashless trading model for scrap metal dealers.

SCOTLAND

Oil and Gas

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the oil and gas industries in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [49954]

Michael Moore: Since appointment I have had a number of meetings with representatives of the oil and gas industry in Scotland and will continue to do so.

Public Expenditure

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions his Department has had with HM Treasury on the implications of the 2011 Budget for the provisions of the Scotland Bill. [49846]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with all UK Ministers on a range of issues. The provisions of the Scotland Bill will deliver financial accountability to the Scottish Parliament whilst retaining the benefits of the unified UK tax system for business and individuals across Scotland.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Art Works

Gloria De Piero: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many works of art in the Parliamentary Art Collection are *(a)* on display and *(b)* in storage. [49790]

John Thurso: There are over 8,500 works of art in the Parliamentary Art Collection. Around 80% of the collection is on display throughout the buildings of the Parliamentary Estate at any one time, with 20% held in store. This figure fluctuates regularly due to office moves, picture selections and changes made to the displays.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost to the House of Commons Service was of insuring the Parliamentary Art Collection in respect of works *(a)* on display and *(b)* in storage in the last year for which figures are available. [49791]

John Thurso: The House Service does not purchase commercial insurance for works of art in the Parliamentary Art Collection when they are on display in the buildings of the Parliamentary Estate. Similarly no commercial insurance is purchased for works of art held in storage on the Parliamentary Estate.

Works of art from the Parliamentary Art Collection are covered by insurance when they are on loan to third parties outside the Parliamentary Estate and in such instances the borrower pays the cost of the insurance cover.

During the current financial year 2010-11 the House Service has paid £1,350 for commercial insurance for 240 works of art from the Parliamentary Art Collection temporarily being held in external storage.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Darfur

15. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [49675]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In Darfur, more than 70,000 people have fled fighting since January. The UK is the single largest donor to the Common Humanitarian Fund. We also support NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross in their work on health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and protection.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department is providing for development of diagnostic tools to detect tuberculosis at the point of care in *(a)* rural and *(b)* other communities in developing countries. [49447]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development is supporting a public-private product development partnership, the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), with funding of £5 million for the period 2009-14. FIND are working on a number of new diagnostic tools for tuberculosis, including those that can be used in *(a)* rural settings and *(b)* in reference laboratories and district hospitals.

To date FIND have developed five diagnostic tests for reference laboratories and district hospitals and are also working on how they can adapt these tools for use in more peripheral settings.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has plans to share the best practice on tackling tuberculosis and HIV in maternal care arising from its work in Rwanda with international counterparts. [49448]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not work specifically on tackling tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in maternal care in Rwanda. DFID provides sector budget support to the health sector as a whole, to support the Government of Rwanda delivering results across the sector. The performance of the health sector is regularly reviewed jointly by the Government of Rwanda and donors. These reviews enable dialogue around best practice and agreement on how to disseminate lessons to the wider international health community. The Government of Rwanda themselves are very proactive in disseminating their best practice to other developing country governments and partners and have, for example, recently done so with respect to results-based health financing and community health insurance. The World Health Organisation and the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria also play a leading role, supported by the UK, in sharing best practice on tackling tuberculosis and HIV in maternal care.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department plans to undertake on the effects of tuberculosis on children and families in the developing world in the next 12 months. [49453]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development is supporting a range of research programmes that will address the impact of tuberculosis (TB) on children and families in the developing world, over the next 12 months and beyond. For example, research on the development of new vaccines aimed at infants and children; a wide range of clinical and operational research to improve the diagnosis of TB in children and to find better ways to treat people with TB, in particular multi-drug resistant TB, which has a large impact on children and families.

Development Aid

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the poorest country is to which the UK provides development aid; and what form such aid takes. [49888]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: According to Statistics on International Development (SID), published October 2010, Burundi is ranked as the poorest country to which the UK provides bilateral and multilateral aid. Burundi's gross national income per capita is $135. Following the Bilateral Aid Review, the UK Government are focusing future support exclusively on furthering Burundi's integration into the East African Community (EAC). We consider this to be the single most important contributing factor to Burundi's economic growth in the medium term. The UK Government's work on Trade Mark East Africa has supported the creation of a new Revenue Authority in Burundi, resulting in overall revenues rising by more than 30% and domestic tax revenues doubling. UK funding to Burundi will continue to be provided through the multilateral development organisations.

Details of UK aid expenditure in developing countries are published in SID, which is available in the House Library or online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Swaziland: Overseas Aid

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will review his decision on the reprioritisation of aid to Swaziland in light of the rate of HIV prevalence and low life expectancy in that country. [49443]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) closed its bilateral programme to Swaziland in 2005. DFID's support for Swaziland is mainly delivered through multilateral partners such as the World Bank, UN, European Commission (EC) and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Swaziland will continue to benefit from regional programmes managed by the DFID office in South Africa. For example, our regional HIV and AIDS behaviour change programme has reached 80% of the population of Swaziland with radio, TV and booklets containing messages on the importance of prevention and testing for HIV and AIDS.

In 2008-09, DFID provided £4.5 million in aid to Swaziland.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Hospitality

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48352]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have ministerial drinks cabinets.

Arms Trade

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the export of *(a)* arms and *(b)* crowd control devices to foreign governments which his Department identifies as non-democratic or oppressive. [49084]

Alistair Burt: We operate one of the most robust and transparent arms exports control systems in the world, whereby all controlled goods (including arms and crowd control devices) are assessed, on a case-by-case basis, against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. As the Secretary of State said to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 16 March 2011, we will review the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods.

British Nationals Abroad

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals he estimates are resident in *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* China. [48341]

Mr Hague: British nationals resident overseas are not obliged to inform our embassies or consulates of their presence although we actively encourage them to do so. Therefore, our estimates are based on the number of those nationals who we understand have been issued resident permits, or made themselves known to the embassies, and from publicly available research. We estimate:

Brazil—in the region of 10,000 British nationals permanently resident;

Russia—in the region of 7,000 British nationals permanently resident;

India—in the region of 34,000 British nationals permanently resident, rising to around 51,000 at certain times of the year;

China—in the region of 17,000 British nationals permanently resident.

Chen Guangcheng

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his Department, *(d)* HM Ambassador to China and *(e)* officials in the British Embassy in China have made to the government of China on (i) Chen Guangcheng and (ii) his family; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [47700]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by persistent reports of mistreatment and extrajudicial restrictions targeting individual human rights defenders in China, particularly lawyers. We are aware of the video released on 9 February 2011 of blind human rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng, in which he describes the restrictions placed upon him during his current period of house arrest. We are concerned about the treatment of Chen and his family, whose detention appears to violate Chinese laws.

During his recent meeting in January with Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs expressed his concern about Chen's treatment. The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) also raised Chen's case with the head of the Chinese delegation to the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 13 January, and called for his release. We also included Chen on a list of individual cases of concern that was handed to the head of the delegation to the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue.

A satisfactory response on Chen's case has not yet been received. We continue to monitor his situation and are working with EU partners to maintain the profile of his case.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of his Department are participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. [49409]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has approximately 70 London based employees participating in the Cycle to Work scheme.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49185]

Alistair Burt: No Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010.

Egypt: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 713W, on Egypt: politics and government, how many British nationals who used flights from Egypt charted by his Department have *(a)* paid and *(b)* not paid for the flight to date. [48943]

Alistair Burt: Our records show that the two charter flights carried 196 British nationals. As of 25 March 2011, repayment cheques have been received for 42 passengers. This covers 29 adults plus 13 children, with a total value of £11,200.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on charging *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals who used recent flights chartered by his Department from Egypt. [48965]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 713W.

As of 25 March 2011, repayment cheques have been received for 42 passengers.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to offer *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support to Egypt for the purposes of managing political transition. [49403]

Alistair Burt: The Government support a peaceful, democratic transition and political reform that meets the aspirations of the Egyptian people. The EU is the main channel for our support and financial assistance to Egypt. The EU has offered a package of measures to support the transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Egypt, and awaits a formal request from the Egyptians to take this forward. The EU is also working on measures to support civil society in Egypt.

In addition, we are discussing bilateral assistance with the Egyptian Government aimed at Egypt's political, economic and structural needs. This includes work strands to promote political participation, employment and vocational education, civil society engagement, security sector reform, constitutional reform, and help to tackle corruption and conflict of interest in government. I met the Egyptian Finance Minister, Dr Samir Radwan, on 25 March 2011 and we discussed economic recovery and the political transition in Egypt.

Japan: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many seats were *(a)* available and *(b)* occupied on each of the flights on aircraft recently chartered by his Department for passenger transport from Japan following the tsunami. [48910]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Following the revision of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) travel advice to advise British nationals to consider leaving Tokyo and areas to the north of Tokyo, the FCO secured seats on four flights to Hong Kong for British nationals who were unable to book tickets on commercial flights out of Japan.

Flight one—The FCO block booked seats on a commercial flight with Cathay Pacific airlines. 200 seats were made available and 44 British nationals and dependents took up seats.

Flight two—FCO chartered this flight. 283 seats were available and four British nationals took up seats.

Flight three—FCO chartered this flight using Orient Thai Air. 448 seats were available and 20 British nationals and dependents took up seats.

Flight four—FCO block booked seats on a commercial flight with Cathay Pacific airlines. 50 seats were made available and 11 British nationals and their dependents took up seats.

Given the scale of the unfolding crisis and unpredictability of demand, these bookings were a sensible precautionary measure to ensure that all British nationals and their families who wished to leave Japan immediately were able to do so.

Japan: Tsunami

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers in his Department were consulted on the decision not to give permission to International Rescue Corps to work in Japan following the tsunami. [47971]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* There was no question of the British Government deciding not to give permission to the International Rescue Corps to work in Japan. Decisions about whether to accept or decline offers of assistance are for the Japanese Government. Our embassy in Tokyo wrote a formal letter of support to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the International Rescue Corps' behalf. It did not consider it necessary to consult Ministers before doing so.

Libya: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many seats were *(a)* available and *(b)* occupied on each of the flights on aircraft recently chartered by his Department for passenger transport from Libya. [48918]

Alistair Burt: Six flights were chartered to offer primarily British nationals and then foreign nationals safe passage out of Libya. A total of 1099 seats were made available; 553 seats were occupied. Due to the chaotic situation and safety concerns at Libya airport it was not always possible for British nationals to pass through immigration and/or board flights in sufficient time to meet chartered aircraft.

1. Departed Libya (Tripoli) at 02:47 on Thursday 24 February 2011—221 seats available; 181 seats used
2. Departed Libya (Tripoli) at 18:09 on Thursday 24 February 2011—180 seats available; 131 seats used
3. Departed Libya (Tripoli) at 22:49 on Thursday 24 February 2011—200 seats available; three seats used
4. Departed Libya (Tripoli) at 23:55 on Thursday 24 February 2011—170 seats available; 0 seats used
5. Departed Libya (Tripoli) at 08:35 on Friday 25 February 2011—180 seats available; 136 seats used
6. Departed Libya (Tripoli) at 13:07 on Saturday 26 February 2011—148 seats available; 102 seats used.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals who have left Libya in the last month on flights organised by other governments. [48942]

Alistair Burt: We believe that the departure of around 150 British nationals, by air or sea, was assisted by other EU Governments.

Libya: Politics and Government

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to assist in the delivery of essential medical supplies to Libya. [47629]

Alistair Burt: On 9 March 2011, the Department for International Development announced that the UK would provide funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which will enable the ICRC to provide three medical surgical teams to treat and provide medical supplies to 3,000 people affected by the fighting in Libya. The ICRC will act to co-ordinate support to hospitals and facilitate delivery of these medical supplies.

We continue to address humanitarian concerns as part of our response to the deteriorating situation in Libya. For example, as well as imposing immediate measures to stop the violence in Libya, the UK-led UN Security Council Resolution 1970 called on member states to facilitate humanitarian aid and urged the Libyan authorities to ensure the safe passage of medical supplies into the country. The UK drafted and co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1973 adopted on 17 March 2011, similarly demanded that the Libyan authorities ensure the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian assistance. It also made clear that the ban on all flights in Libyan airspace shall not apply to flights whose sole purpose is humanitarian, such as delivering or facilitating the delivery of assistance, including medical supplies, food, humanitarian workers and related assistance.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Palestinian Authority's adherence to its road map commitment to end incitement against Israel. [49169]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Government deplores all incitement to violence. We have strongly supported the Palestinian Authority's (PA) programme of reform of its institutions of state, including the security sector. The PA has made considerable progress in this regard, meaning a more effective government, an improved security situation, and the PA meeting its core commitments under the Quartet road map. For this progress to be sustainable progress is needed towards a two-state solution; it is vital that obstacles to resuming negotiations are removed, including Israel's decision to continue building settlements, in direct contravention of its road map commitments.

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Palestinian authorities on the need to reduce tensions between Israel and the Gaza Strip. [49385]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed his concern at the escalating violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip in a statement on 25 March 2011, noting a surge in rockets and mortars launched at Israeli civilians and the death of six Palestinian civilians as a result of Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip.

We have underlined in public and in private, with both Israeli and Palestinian interlocutors, the need to prevent further loss of innocent life, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to work to reduce these tensions.

Olympic Games 2012

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Department for International Development on projects to be taken forward under the London 2012 Olympic Truce. [48084]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) fully supports the Olympic Truce.

Preparations for the London 2012 Truce are at an early stage. I have not yet held discussions with the Department for International Development on the Truce, but the FCO will discuss our contribution to the Truce as part of the overall preparations for the 2012 Olympics.

Tunisia: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what costs his Department has incurred in chartering aircraft to Tunisia in 2011; [48936]

(2) how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have used flights organised by his Department from Tunisia in 2011. [48953]

Alistair Burt: No flights were chartered for consular crisis reasons by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from Tunisia in 2011.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals who have left Tunisia in 2011 on flights organised by other governments. [48941]

Alistair Burt: We do not have an accurate estimate of the number of British nationals that have left Tunisia on flights organised by other governments.

Western Sahara: Morocco

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Western Sahara was discussed during his recent meeting with the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs. [49392]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) met the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs Taieb Fassi Fihri in London on 10 March 2011. They discussed Western Sahara in the context of the constitutional reforms announced by King Mohammed VI of Morocco in his speech of 9 March 2011. They also discussed the role of the new National Council of Human Rights which will have a regional office in Western Sahara.

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he last spoke to the President of Yemen. [49730]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) last spoke to President Saleh on his visit to Yemen on 9 February, when he discussed social, political and economic reform, as well as counter terrorism. I spoke to Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr Al-Qirbi on 19 March.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with members of the Friends of Yemen group; and what proposals have been discussed. [49809]

Alistair Burt: I am in frequent contact with a number of Friends of Yemen partners, including my EU counterparts, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and of course Yemen. Discussions have followed on from the previous meeting in September 2010 in New York, and how we could move forward to help Yemen tackle their political, economic and security challenges.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the proportion of household carbon dioxide emissions which arose from *(a)* lighting, *(b)* heating, *(c)* cooking and *(d)* electrical appliances in the latest period for which figures are available. [49880]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* DECC publishes estimates of how fuel use is broken down by end use in 'Energy Consumption in the United Kingdom':

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/ecuk/ecuk.aspx

Analysis of these data, when combined with emissions factors, indicate that lighting accounted for 7% of household emissions, heating for 65%, cooking for 4%, and electrical appliances for 24%.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to simplify the administration of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme by removing or minimising the administrative *(a)* cost to and *(b)* burden on businesses. [49845]

Gregory Barker: Yes. The Government are committed to simplifying the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme in order to reduce the burden on participants while maintaining the incentives on participants to implement cost effective energy efficiency measures.

We have laid an amendment order before the House containing the first tranche of amendments to the CRC. The order will postpone the start of phase 2 to give us a suitable window to consider and implement broader simplification measures. This amendment also reduces the administrative burden to over 12,000 organisations, by removing the requirement for organisations to make an information disclosure from phase 2 onwards. This order will come into force on 1 April 2011. I will bring forward further proposals later this year following consideration of the simplification proposals we have received from participants to date.

Feed-in Tariffs

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if his Department will produce an impact assessment on Cornwall as part of the fast-track review of the feed-in tariff scheme; [49393]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential number of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time jobs to be created in solar photovoltaic farms in Cornwall under the feed-in tariff scheme by 2015; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect on this estimate of the outcome of the fast-track review of the feed-in tariff scheme. [49396]

Gregory Barker: Impacts of the fast-track proposals on Great Britain (GB) have been considered during the consultation stage and are reflected in the accompanying impact assessment which has been published on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fit_review/fit_review.aspx

The Department will not be producing a specific impact assessment for Cornwall.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many megawatts of solar photovoltaic generating capacity have been installed in Cornwall and Devon since the launch of the feed-in tariff scheme. [49394]

Gregory Barker: Since the launch of the FITs scheme on 1 April 2010, the generating capacity of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations in Cornwall and Devon up to 31 December 2010 are:

Devon—1.398 MW

Cornwall—0.645 MW and 0.00376 MW on the Isles of Scilly

In addition, there is a further 0.326 MW in Devon and 0.110 MW in Cornwall which were installed between 15 July 2009 and 31 March 2010 (when the FITs scheme was announced).

Public Bodies: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 296W, on renewable energy: feed-in-tariffs, if he will place in the Library details of the feed-in-tariff schemes in the 51 non-departmental public bodies receiving a revenue from feed-in-tariffs. [48325]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold that information.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on social landlords acting as electricity generators; and if he will make a statement. [49464]

Gregory Barker: The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme does not exclude anyone from participating in the scheme. We recognise the contribution social landlords could make towards fuel poverty by participating in the scheme.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether each owner of a flat in a property with array capacity which may exceed 4KW in total who have separate electricity supply and meters are individually eligible for the 4.3 pence feed-in tariff. [49539]

Gregory Barker: A site is defined in the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licence as:

> "the premises to which are attached one or more Accredited Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) installations or Eligible Installations in close geographical proximity to each other, to be determined by: a). the relevant meter point administration number for the electricity supply, b). street address, c). OS grid reference; and any other factors with the Authority (Ofgem) at its discretion views as relevant."

Application of these is the responsibility of Ofgem who are the administrators of the scheme. It is therefore not within the Department's remit to make definitive statement on eligibility of particular schemes.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the expenditure by the solar power industry in all stages of planning and development into solar photovoltaic installations above 1 MW since the introduction of the feed-in tariff scheme. [49395]

Gregory Barker: Information on development cost data are not collected as part of the administration of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the written ministerial statement of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 32WS, on feed-in tariffs (review), for what reasons he has set a target rate of return of five per cent. for the solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [48818]

Gregory Barker: Feed-in tariff (FITs) levels were originally set to provide a target 5-8% return on investment across all technologies. Solar photovoltaic (PV) tariffs were set at the lower end of this range to reflect the ease of deployment; for example, solar PV installations up to 50kW do not require planning permission and are unlikely to require complex grid connections. In the fast-track review DECC is proposing revised tariffs in the light of emerging evidence that PV capital costs have fallen significantly since the start of the scheme and that large-scale projects are coming forward more quickly than originally expected. The aim is to target incentives towards smaller community and domestic installations, while keeping overall costs within the available budget.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from community groups on his decision to launch a fast-track review of solar photovoltaic feed-in-tariffs for installation with generating capacity above 50 kilowatts. [48819]

Gregory Barker: Since the announcement of the fast-track review of solar photovoltaics (PV) the Department have received some representation from community groups. We expect wider input from this from the consultation on the fast-track review which was launched on 18 March and will close on 6 May 2011.

Water Power

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of greater utilisation of *(a)* hydropower and *(b)* water wheel turbines on rivers. [49702]

Gregory Barker: There have been several recent assessments of the UK's remaining hydropower potential, including old water wheel sites. These have estimated the remaining viable resource at between 850 MW and 1,550 MW, which is equivalent to 1% to 2% of current UK generating capacity. This represents a modest but useful contribution to our renewable energy and emission reduction targets. In addition, these small hydro schemes would ensure the active involvement of hundreds of businesses, communities and individuals in the transition to the low carbon economy.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the *(a)* availability of and *(b)* adequacy of supply to British forces in Afghanistan of equipment support materials for protected military platforms; and if he will make a statement. [49625]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The availability and supply of support materials for protected military platforms is kept under constant review and replenishment action is initiated whenever required.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requirements have been implemented for platforms serving in Afghanistan *(a)* with and *(b)* without a support and maintenance contract in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [49736]

Peter Luff: Over £4.9 billion has been approved through the Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) process on equipment to meet emerging threats and requirements for Afghanistan since Operation Herrick began.

During 2010, there were 71 modifications purchased under UOR arrangements fitted to existing fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, armoured vehicles, protected patrol vehicles and support vehicle platforms, in support of UK armed forces deployed in Afghanistan. Of these, 63 required and had a support and maintenance contract.

Armed Forces

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that the outcomes of planning round 11 in respect of capability are consistent with the policy objectives set out in the strategic defence and security review; and if he will make a statement. [49096]

Dr Fox: The policy objectives in the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) have provided the strategic direction for the Department's annual planning round, whose outcomes, therefore, will be consistent with the aims and objectives set out in the SDSR White Paper.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to report to the House monthly on the adherence of each service to harmony guidelines, including any instances of breaches and their extent. [49738]

Nick Harvey: No. To help get the work/life balance right for our service personnel, we have Harmony Guidelines for the length of time personnel spend away and the interval that they should have between operational tours. These allow commanding officers to judge the situation facing their personnel and give them the opportunity to take remedial measures where possible. They do not provide an overall measure of manning. In addition, Harmony figures are unlikely to change significantly month on month as they are calculated against a rolling period ranging over years.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of personnel in each armed service are in breach of their harmony guidelines; what assessment he has made of the effect of Operation Odyssey Dawn on the number of such people; and if he will make a statement. [49739]

Peter Luff: Less than 1% of the Royal Navy, 6% of the Army and 5% of RAF personnel are operating above Harmony guidelines. Operation Ellamy, the UK name for the NATO operation in Libya, is still in its early days and its duration remains unclear, as does the eventual number of personnel deployed to the operation. As a result of this, it is not yet possible to assess the effect on harmony of this operation. None the less, the impact of all periods of deployment on the harmony guidelines remains under scrutiny.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed forces personnel who are currently at lower readiness level will be deployed during Operation Odyssey Dawn; and if he will make a statement. [49740]

Nick Harvey: UK armed forces are operating as part of a coalition to enforce the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. The UK component of this is known as Operation Ellamy. Operation Odyssey Dawn refers to the US contribution. UK forces personnel will be activated through a graduated response as required to support Operation Ellamy. However, where specific gaps in capability exist, personnel at a lower level of readiness may be deployed.

Armed Forces: Bahrain

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel of each service are stationed in Bahrain. [48959]

Nick Harvey: The following table shows the number of troops stationed in Bahrain:

Service	*Endorsed number (as at 28 March 11)*[1]
Naval	110
Army	10
Air Force	10

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 personnel

The precise number of personnel in theatre fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

Armed Forces: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much rent for void properties his Department paid Annington Homes in Colchester constituency in financial year 2010-11; [49570]

(2) how many family houses on the defence estate in the Colchester constituency are unoccupied. [49571]

Peter Luff: As the majority of service family accommodation (SFA) may be unoccupied for only short periods and for various reasons between occupants, no calculation is made of the rent paid while SFA properties are void.

As at 24 March 2011, 125 SFA properties were unoccupied.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of HM Armed Forces based at Colchester Garrison are living in private sector accommodation rented by his Department. [49573]

Peter Luff: As at 23 March 2011, 408 service personnel based at Colchester were housed in substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) properties.

SSSA is only ever used as a last resort in cases where service accommodation either does not exist or is not available to an individual's entitlement. Where a multi-occupant property is rented for SSSA, it will, as far as possible, be used to capacity.

There are no families based at Colchester housed in substitute service family accommodation (SSFA).

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal status the proposed tri-service military covenant will have. [48982]

Nick Harvey: Provisions in the Armed Forces Bill, currently before Parliament, will require the Defence Secretary to present an armed forces covenant report to Parliament every year. Therefore, under this Government, for the first time the armed forces covenant will be referenced in law. This demonstrates the commitment of this Government to rebuild the armed forces covenant.

Armed Forces: Meat

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to increase the proportion of meat served to the armed forces which is produced in Britain. [49439]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 555W, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

C-704 Missiles

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the ability of the SharpEye Solid-State Radar system to operate C-704 missiles. [49582]

Peter Luff: The SharpEye is a low power navigation radar largely used in civil applications. The C-704 missile system can use target information from a wide variety of radar systems, including the SharpEye.

Cougar Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the start date is for training exercise Cougar. [49778]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* Current planning assumptions are for the Responsive Force Task Group to achieve a deployment date of 26 April, when it will start its Cougar training.

Defence: Procurement

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work he expects to be undertaken on ships and submarines in each region in accordance with his Department's Terms of Business Agreement with *(a)* Babcock and *(b)* BAe. [49566]

Peter Luff: The Terms of Business Agreement (TOBA) with Babcock Marine (BM) provides a mechanism by which BM can be allocated work in the support of the Royal Navy's surface ships and submarines, and in the support of Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde and HMNB Devonport. The TOBA states that surface ship support work will be carried out at Devonport or Rosyth Dockyards. It also states that the deep maintenance of submarines will be carried out at Devonport Dockyard, with some support work being carried out at HMNB Clyde.

The BAE Systems Surface Ships (BAES SS) TOBA allocates BAES SS work on the design, build, and support of complex warships. Design and build work on complex warships by BAES SS is currently carried out in Portsmouth and at their shipyard in Scotstoun and Govan; support work conducted by BAES SS under the TOBA is carried out in Portsmouth.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [49310]

Peter Luff: Staff exits are categorised in different ways for military personnel and civil servants.

For military personnel, early exits consist of voluntary outflows (VO) and medical discharges. VO is used to describe exits from trained UK regular forces which are voluntarily generated by the individual before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period. The costs of VO and medical discharges could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Civil servants may leave or be dismissed on early retirement terms, with the financial consequences depending on the individual's circumstances. Where a pension is paid early, current rules generally require it to be actuarially reduced so that there is no extra cost to the Department. But arrangements may be put in place to buy out the actuarial reduction where voluntary exit schemes are required to enable the Department to reduce civilian staff numbers; and before the Civil Service Compensation Scheme was amended in 2010, some early retirements attracted an enhanced pension. Early payment of pension can be used for the purposes of medical retirement as well as for voluntary releases and redundancies.

The numbers leaving on VO, medical discharge and early retirement are set out in the following table:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
VO (military personnel)[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,970	6,430
Medical discharge (military personnel)[2]	1,650	1,607	1,551	1,361	1,093
Early retirement (civil servants)[3]	1,280	1,375	1,700	1,010	855

[1] Data are not kept in this format prior to 2008-09.

[2] These figures represent calendar years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

[3] These figures include MOD trading funds but exclude locally engaged civilians and members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Costs for release, where the exit involves the early payment of pension other than on an actuarially reduced basis, are not separately identifiable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether a sanction will be applied if a guarantee of realistic budgets for development, procurement and deployment is not fulfilled; [48977]

(2) with reference to his speech to the Institute of Civic Society of 22 February 2011, who is to *(a)* provide and *(b)* assess the guarantees of realistic budgets for development, procurement and deployment to be presented to Ministers. [48991]

Dr Fox: Project teams are responsible for ensuring that project proposals are tautly and realistically costed, drawing on expert advice. Their proposals are then subject to scrutiny by independent assurance teams. The Ministry of Defence Investment Approvals Board ensures that project approvals align with Defence priorities. The Defence Board and Ministers are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the equipment programme as a whole is affordable and deliverable, and for taking the decisions that are required to achieve this. In particular I have asked the Permanent Secretary and the Chief of Defence Materiel to examine our future programmes to ensure that their costs and risks are well understood and that the budget set aside for them is appropriate. In addition, I intend to chair a new Major Projects Review Board which will monitor major programmes on a quarterly basis to ensure that they are on time and within budget, to direct remedial action where necessary, and to hold those responsible to account.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his speech to the Institute of Civic Society of 22 February 2011, whether he plans to publish the outcome of the examination of his Department's future programmes which he has commissioned. [48990]

Dr Fox: The examination of the Department's future programme is an internal process designed to inform ongoing work under Planning Round 2011. As such, we have no intention of publishing the findings.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49189]

Peter Luff: No records are kept of the numbers of staff who are offered voluntary redundancy and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, between April 2010 and 1 March 2011, some 370 civil servants left the Ministry of Defence (including trading funds) on redundancy terms (this includes both voluntary and compulsory exits). These figures exclude other forms of paid early releases, including redundancy avoidance measures.

European Fighter Aircraft

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon aircraft were grounded because parts had been removed to keep other aircraft airborne on 9 March 2011. [48607]

Peter Luff: On 9 March 2011 three Typhoon aircraft were being used as donor airframes for cannibalised parts. This is a routine measure in the management of the fast jet fleet. None of these aircraft were in the forward fleet.

HMS Ark Royal

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will reverse the decision to withdraw HMS Ark Royal and its Harrier aircraft. [48901]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* No. In the context of the budgetary position we inherited from the previous Government, the strategic defence and security review set out the arguments underpinning the Government's decision to decommission HMS Ark Royal and remove the Harrier from service. It would have been unsustainable to retain a fleet of four fast jet types over the next decade.

Recent events in North Africa have shown that the UK has extensive basing and over-flying rights to enable the full and effective projection of air power overseas with our Typhoon and Tornado fleets. Harrier aircraft cannot carry the range of weapons and reconnaissance capability that has been required for missions over Libya.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of retaining HMS Ark Royal and its Harrier aircraft for the next four years. [48902]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* HMS Ark Royal and the Harrier aircraft were withdrawn from service at the end of 2010 as a consequence of decisions taken during the Strategic Defence and Security Review. While there are no plans to retain these capabilities in operational service, the costs of doing so would have been broadly comparable to the savings we expect to achieve from withdrawing them. We estimate the savings from withdrawing Ark Royal to be £10 million in 2011-12, £25 million in 2012-13, £35 million in 2013-14 and £35 million in 2014-15. Savings from retiring the Harrier aircraft are estimated at around £900 million between now and 2018.

HMS Cumberland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date HMS Cumberland is due to be decommissioned. [49921]

Peter Luff: HMS Cumberland is presently in the Mediterranean supporting enforcement action against Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. We have decided that she should remain there until she can be replaced by another suitably prepared and equipped destroyer or frigate. Because of this, her withdrawal from service will be postponed from 1 April 2011 until around the end of the month.

HMS Tireless and HMS Turbulent

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to make any part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's report into the incidents on HMS Tireless and HMS Turbulent publicly available. [48968]

Peter Luff: I will place a copy of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's investigation into 'Babcock Event No 19720: Failure To Reinstate Primary Safety Systems' in the Library of the House before the end of May 2011, following a review to ascertain whether any sensitive information is required to be withheld.

Major Projects Review Board

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what criteria are applied to determine whether a procurement project is classified as a project of concern by his Department's Major Projects Review Board; [49001]

(2) on how many occasions his Department's Major Projects Review Board has met; [49002]

(3) who sits on his Department's Major Projects Review Board. [49003]

Dr Fox: As I announced last month, the Ministry of Defence's Major Projects Review Board (MPRB) will meet on a quarterly basis. The first meeting of the MPRB will therefore be held early in the first quarter of financial year 2011-12.

The MPRB will be chaired by myself supported by the Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology, the Chief of Defence Materiel and other officials as appropriate.

Projects will be reviewed in terms of performance, cost, and time. Projects forecasting significant slippage, cost growth, or performance shortfalls would lead to their being placed on the "projects of concern" list.

Merville Barracks

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid for renting accommodation in the private sector for those military personnel for whom there is no accommodation available at Merville Barracks, Colchester in financial year 2010-11. [49572]

Peter Luff: To date in financial year 2010-11, a total of 186 service personnel identified as being based at Merville Barracks, were accommodated in substitute service single accommodation (SSSA). A total of 68 SSSA properties were rented for this purpose at a total cost of £687,684,

SSSA is only ever used as a last resort in cases where service accommodation either does not exist or is not available to an individual's entitlement.

Where a multi-occupant property is rented for SSSA, it will, as far as possible, be used to capacity.

Military Tattoos

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military tattoos, *(b)* military festivals and *(c)* other military events open to the public will be held in 2011; and how much expenditure will be incurred by his Department in respect of each such event. [40140]

Nick Harvey: In addition to Armed Forces Day and Welcome Home Parades, that give members of the public the opportunity to show their support for our Service personnel returning from operations, there are two Military Tattoos planned for 2011 and their associated planned expenditure is shown in the following table:

Event	*Planned expenditure (£)*
Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo	0
Royal International Air Tattoo	0

The following table lists military festivals and other military events currently planned to take place during 2011:

Event	*Planned expenditure (£)*
Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton Air Show	0
Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose Air Show	0
Aldershot Garrison Show	0
Abingdon Station Open Day	0
Royal Engineer Association Open Day	0
4 Regiment Royal Artillery Company Open Day	0
Preston Military Show	20,000
Stirling Military Show	34,000
Royal Air Force Cosford Air Show	0
Royal Air Force Waddington International Air Show	0
Royal Air Force Leuchars Air Show	0

Note:
Most of the above events are sponsored by commercial organisations and as a result involve negligible costs to the Ministry of Defence. These costs are largely concerned with marketing, and are recouped through ticket sales or from the commercial partner.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long the Nimrod R1 will remain operational; what factors were considered in the decision to postpone the retirement of the Nimrod R1; and what plans he has for the future use of the aircraft in theatre. [47827]

Dr Fox: The original decision to withdraw the Nimrod R1 from service was taken in 2008 by the previous Government. However, in view of current events in Libya one Nimrod R1 aircraft is being kept in the region for up to three months in support of UNSCR 1973. This is a pragmatic decision given the aircraft is already in the region but is subject to continuous review of the Alliance's operational requirement.

Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requirement requests were made in each of the last five years; how many such requests resulted in an equipment purchase; and what the total cost of such purchases was in each year. [49542]

Peter Luff: Over the last five years, the Ministry of Defence has approved some 820 requests for funding for equipment through the urgent operational requirements process for Iraq and Afghanistan, at a cost of around £5.7 billion. Based on centrally available records the breakdown for each of the last five financial years is estimated as follows:

Financial year (FY)	*Number approved*[1]	*Total approval cost*[1] *(£ million)*
2006-07	230	790
2007-08	240	1,550
2008-09	150	1,400
2009-10	100	840
2010-11	100	1,130
Total	820	5,710

[1] Nearest 10

These figures include the protected mobility package (financial year 2008-09) and light protected patrol vehicle programme (financial year 2010-11).

For financial year 2010-11, the figures given are the approval for the financial year to date, noting that it is not yet complete.

The estimate of the number of requests for funding we have approved includes some business cases that have been subject to re-approvals as requirements have evolved, and some that will have been provided for both Iraq and Afghanistan. For these reasons, a single capability may have been counted more than once in these numbers.

Radioactive Waste

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 947W, on radioactive waste, if he will send for publication in the *Official Report* the text of the letter sent to the hon. Member for Newport West. [49789]

Peter Luff: The information requested will take some time to collate and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this is completed. All letters following up answers to parliamentary questions are published in the *Official Report*.

Saudi Arabia: Military Aid

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many short-term training teams have been sent to the Saudi Arabian National Guard in each year since 2007; and how many courses taught by such teams covered *(a)* internal security training, *(b)* public order training and *(c)* sniper training; [49808]

(2) whether the British Military Mission to the Saudi Arabian National Guard is still in operation. [49825]

Nick Harvey: The British Military Mission to the Saudi Arabian National Guard continues to operate as an essential part of our bilateral relationship.

Training forms an integral part of the British Military Mission's activity.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the details of individual programmes without prejudicing relations between the UK and other states.

Tornado Aircraft

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of retaining the Tornado aircraft fleet for the next four years. [48903]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 318-9W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth North (Penny Mordaunt).

Trident

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date payment is due for items already commissioned for Trident replacement; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of items commissioned for which payment has not yet been made. [45210]

Peter Luff: I have interpreted this question as relating to long lead items for the replacement Vanguard class submarine. There are no outstanding payments against commitments made for long lead items ahead of the initial gate decision.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the increase in the cost of the Trident replacement programme as a result of delays introduced by project extensions. [49604]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), who has responsibility for defence equipment, support and technology, on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 7, to the hon. Member for Bolton West (Julie Hilling).

PRIME MINISTER

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last spoke to the President of Yemen. [49729]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1121.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homelessness: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated to each local authority in England under each category of homelessness grant for 2011-12; and what criteria were used in determining such allocations. [49485]

Grant Shapps: Despite the record deficit inherited we are maintaining investment in homelessness grant at £100 million a year for each of the next four years. For 2011-12, we have announced allocations of £81.5 million for local authorities and £18.5 million for the voluntary sector. As part of our reforms to reduce the number of separate local authority grants, a further £8.5 million to tackle fraud and under-occupation has been integrated to provide a single allocation of Preventing Homelessness Grant for local authorities in 2011-12 totalling £90 million.

A list of allocations of Preventing Homelessness Grant to individual local authorities in 2011-12 has been placed in the Library of the House.

There are a number of factors that were considered in determining allocations, but a very significant one is the need to support work to tackle rough sleeping. We have also sought to maintain the level of grant for individual authorities, including rolling forward the additional £10 million allocated to London authorities during 2010-11 to support implementation of welfare reform measures. Westminster council's allocation for 2011-12 is £8.325 million.

These allocations have been confirmed for 2011-12 and published as provisional figures at the same level for 2012-13. We intend to consult in due course on proposed allocations for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Solar Power: Planning Permission

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many solar photovoltaic schemes exceeding 1 megawatt in *(a)* Cornwall and Devon and *(b)* the UK have received planning permission since the inception of the feed-in tariff scheme. [49397]

Robert Neill: Information on planning permissions for solar photovoltaic schemes exceeding 1 MW, including when they were granted, will be available from individual local planning authorities but is not collected by this Department. The Renewable Energy Planning Database, accessible via the Department for Energy and Climate Change's website, includes data on solar photovoltaic projects but the statistics may not include all recently consented developments because of the time lag in collecting data.

CABINET OFFICE

National Security Council

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on which dates the National Security Council has met in 2011 to date; and in each such case *(a)* how many Ministers attended, *(b)* which Ministers attended, *(c)* for how long the Council met and *(d)* what items were on the agenda. [49949]

Mr Letwin: The National Security Council is a Cabinet Committee that typically meets once a week for an hour to consider matters relating to National Security, Foreign Policy, Defence, International Relations and Development, Resilience, Energy and Resource Security. Since January 2011 it has met on the following dates: 11, 18 and 25 January; 1, 8, 15, 25 and 28 February; and 1, 4, 8, 15, 17 and 22 March.

Consistent with longstanding practice, information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, including agendas and attendance, is generally not disclosed as to do so would put at risk the public interest in both collective responsibility and the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers. Ministers will more effectively reach collective decisions if they are able to debate questions of policy freely and in confidence.

Decisions taken by Cabinet or its Committees are binding on all members of the Government under the principle of collective decision-making, irrespective of whether they are able to attend a particular meeting or not. The maintenance of this convention is fundamental to the continued effectiveness of Cabinet government, and is therefore in the public interest.

Big Society Initiative

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what representations he has received on the resignation of Phil Redmond as Chair of the Liverpool vanguard big society pilot; and if he will make a statement. [39922]

(2) if he will assess the progress made by the vanguard pilot for the big society in Liverpool at the point at which it ended. [40335]

Mr Hurd: Phil Redmond has not resigned. He remains committed to the Liverpool big society vanguard pilot and continues to work closely with the Government to address barriers in the way of action to re-energise volunteering in the city. The Cabinet Office has no plans to assess the progress of the vanguard pilot.

Departmental Meetings

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions Cabinet Office Briefing Room has met in 2011 to date; on what date each meeting was held, and for what duration; which Ministers attended each meeting; and what the agenda was of each meeting. [49947]

Mr Maude: COBR has met a number of times this year, including to co-ordinate the response to events in Libya and Japan. Information about the actual dates, duration, attendance and agendas of individual meetings are not normally disclosed both on grounds of national security and because they relate to internal discussion and advice.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public bodies sponsored by his Department *(a)* have been and *(b)* are to be closed, merged or reorganised following his appointment; and how many (i) women and (ii) men who are public appointees at each body will no longer hold such an appointment in consequence. [47110]

Mr Maude: The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer. The proposals for the majority of bodies across all Departments was announced and published on 14 October 2010. An updated list reflecting changes since October 2010 has been published on the Cabinet Office website.

As a result of the reforms to the Cabinet Office public bodies, the number of women and men who will no longer hold public appointment positions is as follows:

		Public appointment positions that will no longer be held	
Body	*Reform*	*Male*	*Female*
Capacitybuilders	No longer a NDPB	6	2
Commission for the Compact	No longer a NDPB	3	1
OCS Advisory Body	No longer a NDPB	7	7
Civil Service Appeals Board	No longer a NDPB	13	7
Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board	No longer a NDPB	5	6
Main Honours Advisory Committee	No longer a NDPB	0	0
National School of Government	No longer a NMD	0	0
Security Commission	No longer a NDPB	3	0

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Childcare Salary Supplement Scheme

Caroline Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority decided to *(a)* remove the childcare salary supplement scheme for new hon. Members' staff and replace it with a salary sacrifice scheme, *(b)* take the childcare salary supplement scheme payments for returning hon. Members' staff from the staffing budget rather than a central budget and *(c)* operate different childcare support arrangements for new hon. Members' staff and returning hon. Members' staff. [44623]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reasons the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority decided to:

a) remove the childcare salary supplement scheme for new members' staff and replace it with a salary sacrifice scheme;

b) take the childcare salary supplement scheme payments for returning members' staff from the staffing budget rather than a central budget and

c) operate different childcare support arrangements for new members' staff and returning members' staff

IPSA took the decision to offer new MPs' staff members a salary sacrifice scheme for childcare vouchers on the basis that this type of scheme is common practice across large parts of the public and private sector.

The childcare salary supplement scheme payments for returning MPs' staff is taken from the staffing budget on the grounds that these payments form part of MPs' overall staffing costs and should therefore fall under this budget category.

The reason IPSA operates separate arrangements for returning MPs' staff and new MPs' staff is because IPSA did not want to alter existing contractual arrangements in this regard for returning MPs' staff, but wanted to bring the practice for new MPs' staff into line with the practice that is common across most sectors.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has made of the financial benefit per month to a member of staff with two children under five working full-time for an hon. Member under *(a)* the salary supplement scheme and *(b)* the salary sacrifice scheme in the latest period for which figures are available; what consultation IPSA undertook on the equity of the changes made to such childcare support arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [44624]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has made of the financial benefit per month to a member of staff with two children under five working full time for an hon. Member would receive under (a) the salary supplement scheme and (b) the salary sacrifice scheme in the latest period for which figures are available; and what consultation IPSA undertook on the equity of the changes made to such childcare support arrangements.

The financial benefit per month based on a salary supplement scheme would be £336 per month for an employee who has two children under the age of 5 years. This £336 would be subject to income tax and national insurance contribution and the exact amount will therefore vary per employee. The benefit for employees in receipt of childcare vouchers is the difference between the net and gross amount of the salary sacrifice, which can be up to £243 per month, irrespective of the number of children they have.

IPSA consulted in January 2010 on whether to provide childcare support but did not consult on what system of support to provide. Following this consultation, IPSA took the decision to retain the salary supplement system for staff already in receipt of this support, but to offer the staff of new MPs, and IPSA's own staff, a salary sacrifice scheme for childcare vouchers on the basis that such schemes are common across large parts of the public and private sector.

Consultants: Recruitment

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the cost to the public purse was of the recruitment consultancy services used for the recruitment of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's incoming compliance officer. [45797]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the cost to the public purse for the recruitment consultancy services used for the recruitment of the incoming compliance officer.

IPSA agreed to a fee of £1,500 + VAT for the recruitment consultancy services used for the recruitment of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, an office provided for in statute by the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, as amended by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

The recruitment consultancy's services included providing assistance in drawing up a job specification, preparing and placing the advertisement for the job in the Sunday Times, updating and advertising the vacancy on a dedicated micro-website, and undertaking an initial sift of the 60 applications received in response to the advertisement.

Personnel: Pay

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 3W, on employment, whether the three members of staff received any payment on their departure from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [49474]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2011, Official Report, column 3W, on employment, whether the three members of staff received any payment on their departure from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

The members of staff did not receive any payment on their departure.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what arrangements are in place in the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to *(a)* reduce levels of work-based stress and *(b)* provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress. [48197]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what arrangements are in place to a) reduce levels of work-based stress and b) provide assistance to staff diagnosed with such stress.

IPSA seeks to promote a healthy work-life balance for its employees. IPSA has recently developed a stress risk assessment which managers will shortly start using to identify symptoms of stress in both individuals and teams. The assistance provided will depend on the cause of stress.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the merits of allowing those who are newly-eligible for compensation for contaminated blood to claim funds from the Skipton Fund on an ongoing basis instead of imposing a deadline of 31 March 2011; [49412]

(2) whether he undertook any consultation before establishing a deadline of 31 March 2011 for claims by those newly-eligible for compensation in respect of contaminated blood to claim funds from the Skipton Fund; [49430]

(3) if he will extend the deadline for claimants of compensation for contaminated blood to the Skipton Fund in cases where it can be demonstrated that it was not possible to make claimants aware of new arrangements within the time allowed; [49431]

(4) for what reasons he established a deadline of 31 March 2011 for claims to the Skipton Fund by those affected by contaminated blood. [49432]

Anne Milton: When the deadline of 31 March 2011 was announced 10 January 2011, it gave potential claimants 12 weeks to register their intention to make a claim with the Skipton Fund. It is not essential for claimants to obtain all of the necessary evidence to support their claim by that date. The deadline was decided without consultation. Due to the uncertainty of how many applications there may be in respect of those who died pre-2003, we will not know by 31 March 2011 whether all claims have come forward. However, the Skipton Fund will consider registrations that are made after 31 March 2011, on a case by case basis, where there is a valid reason for the applicant to have missed the registration deadline.

Food Standards Agency: Pensions

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the proposed meat hygiene inspection charges will be allocated to the payments in respect of pensions of staff of the Food Standards Agency. [49389]

Anne Milton: The full cost of delivering official controls to the Great Britain meat industry is budgeted at £55 million for 2011-12. This figure includes two elements of pension cost to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as follows:

(1) Employer pension contributions of £2.9 million.

(2) Pension deficit cost of £4.7 million. (The total cost to the FSA is estimated by external actuaries to be £5.6 million of which the proportion included in the cost of industry work is £4.7 million). This cost is volatile, varies with actuarial assumptions, and future charges will be adjusted in line with any fluctuations.

Therefore, the proportion of pension cost in the total cost of delivering official controls is £7.6 million out of a total of £55 million (14%).

Hospitals: Admissions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of emergency readmissions to hospital in each NHS hospital trust in England occurred within 30 days of discharge in each of the last 13 years. [49805]

Mr Simon Burns: Emergency readmissions are normally defined as emergency admissions occurring within 28 days of discharge following an admission for the same patient. The proportion of such readmissions occurring within 30 days of discharge is therefore, by definition, 100%. A table containing information on the number of emergency readmissions by national health service hospital trust for the years 1999-2000 to 2008-09 has been placed in the Library.

NHS Trusts

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that small and medium-sized businesses are notified of any contract tendered for by NHS Trusts. [49950]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to encouraging the national health service to comply with the transparency requirements that apply to all Government bodies as set out in the Cabinet Office guidance. This includes the requirement for procurers to publish tender information so that small and medium-sized businesses have good notice of all tender opportunities. Indeed the Department will shortly be communicating with the NHS to remind them of these requirements.

NHS: Surveys

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 1074W, on NHS: surveys, when he expects data from the findings of the Ipsos MORI six-monthly surveys from March 2008 to March 2010 on public perceptions of the NHS to be published on his Department's website; and when he expects data from the December 2010 survey to be made available. [49603]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 2000, the Department has commissioned, from Ipsos MORI, tracking surveys of public attitudes towards the national health service and social care. The reports from March 2008 to March 2010 have been published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/PublishedSurvey/ListOfSurveySince1990/Generalsurveys/DH_4129933

We are awaiting the final report from Ipsos MORI for the survey conducted during November/December 2010. Future surveys will be published in line with the Department's freedom of information publication scheme.

Pressure Sores

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans to require *(a)* foundation trusts and *(b)* acute trusts to measure the incidence of pressure sores; and if he will make a statement. [49398]

Mr Simon Burns: All foundation trusts and trusts are required to report via the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) dataset. Pressure sores (decubitus ulcer) should be recorded in HES under the ICD-10 code L89. Depth of coding varies significantly between trusts, and pressure sores are often a secondary diagnosis; measuring the incidence of pressure sores is complex, as it requires recording of whether or not a pressure sore was present on admission to hospital.

The NHS Information Centre is currently developing a Safety Thermometer, which measures prevalence of pressure sores (and a number of other avoidable adverse events) more systematically in a group of foundation trusts and trusts who have volunteered to take part.

Processed Food: Labelling

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an estimate of the quantity of processed food sold in Britain which is not labelled as genetically modified (GM) but has been produced using GM food. [49451]

Anne Milton: Under European Union regulations, food labels must indicate when the food contains or consists of genetically modified (GM) organisms, or contains ingredients that are produced from GM organisms. However, this labelling requirement does not apply to small proportions of GM ingredients (below 0.9%) if they are accidentally present. Information on the quantity of food that contains unlabelled GM ingredients is not available.

Surgery

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations in each acute hospital trust were cancelled in each of the last 13 years. [49806]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of operations which are cancelled for non-clinical reasons on or after the day of admission, has been published by the Department on a quarterly basis since 1996-97. Trust level data were collected for the first time in 2001-02 and are not available prior to then. Information on the number of cancelled elective operations in each acute trust for the financial years 2001-02 to 2010-11 year-to date is contained in tables which have been placed in the Library.

Venous Thromboembolism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prevention Board and the VTE Three Professions Group were consulted on the development of VTE indicators in the NHS Safety Thermometer recently published by the Quality, Innovation, Prevention and Productivity Safe Care Safety Express workstream. [49586]

Mr Simon Burns: In developing the NHS Safety Thermometer the Quality, Innovation, Prevention and Productivity Safe Care workstream worked with approximately 100 national health service organisations to develop an audit tool to measure the incidence of four key safety issues: pressure ulcers, venous thromboembolism (VTE), falls and catheter use.

The Safe Care Workstream have been invited to present at the next VTE Prevention Board in July to agree the next steps for the work in the context of the planned inclusion of indicators on VTE as part of the Outcomes Framework for the NHS. The VTE Three Professions Group are represented on this Board.

Wheelchairs

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals have indicated to his Department that they have a shortage of wheelchairs. [49440]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received no representations from hospitals indicating a shortage of wheelchairs.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Scheme

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under his proposed changes to the Access to Work scheme, at what stage of the job-seeking process funding will be provided to a claimant. [10614]

Maria Miller: Access to Work provides financial help towards the extra costs faced by people with a disability in work, where this goes beyond what would be reasonable for an employer to meet. Access to Work supported 37,210 disabled people during 2009-10.

From 9 December 2010, disabled job seekers have been able to find out immediately if they are eligible for Access to Work support by completing a short online questionnaire at Directgov. If eligible, they will be able to print off a new 'Pre-Employment Eligibility Letter' which will help when applying for jobs and can be shown to prospective employers.

The Government have announced an independent review of the employment support they provide to people with disability-related barriers to work.

This review is designed to ensure that Department for Work and Pensions' specialist disability employment programmes provide the very best value for money and meet the needs of disabled people in finding and sustaining work and building fulfilling careers. The review will include Access to Work.

The review will report in summer 2011 with recommendations on how existing specialist support for disabled people can better serve the Department's wide ranging customer base.

Child Maintenance

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disputes between partners about levels of child support payable in cases where one or both former partners were self-employed the Child Support Agency and its successor recorded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [48577]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many disputes between partners about levels of child support payable in cases where one or both former partners were self-employed the Child Support Agency and its successor recorded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [48577]

If a client believes that the decisions taken on their case are incorrect they can dispute this and ask for the decision to be reconsidered. The nature of disputes is not routinely recorded by the Child Support Agency. If the client feels that their issue has not been resolved they can escalate the decision to appeal which is an independent review of the decision by the Tribunal Service. This information is recorded and is provided as follows.

The table shows the total number of appeals against a Child Support Agency decision including the number where one or both former partners were self-employed. The level of child support payable may be one of several reasons for an appeal in a single case and a more detailed breakdown is not available.

	Total appeals	*Appeals involving a self-employed parent*
2006	7,666	1,541
2007	7,356	1,550
2008	8,703	1,619
2009	6,918	1,089
2010	5,798	1,156
Total	36,441	6,955

Note:

Records are based on the calendar year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Disability Employment Advisory Committee. [48691]

Maria Miller: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I estimate net overall administrative savings from the Disability Employment Advisory Committee over the spending review period of £314,000.

This is our best estimate of planned net savings to emerge from these reforms. The Disability Employment Advisory Committee has closed with effect from 30 November 2010.

Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced since 22 November 2010 and *(b)* revoked since 12 May 2010. [44367]

Chris Grayling: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland have had disability living allowance withdrawn since May 2010. [34375]

Maria Miller: Information is not available on the National Statistics datasets to identify disability living allowance claimants that have had their claim withdrawn.

The Department does collect some limited management information on the outcomes of initial claims for disability living allowance, but it is not of sufficient quality or completeness to provide a robust answer. This information does not include subsequent withdrawals by the claimant or as a result of fraud investigation. In addition, it is only available at processing unit level, not constituency, local authority area or country.

Information is available to identify the number of claimants with entitlement to disability living allowance where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. At May 2010, there were 27,740 cases with entitlement to disability living allowance where the payment has been suspended.

Disability Living Allowance: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on his proposals to remove the mobility element of disability living allowance for those resident in care homes. [43148]

Maria Miller: I have written to the Deputy Minister for Social Services at the Welsh Assembly (Gwenda Thomas) about this and disability living allowance reform more generally.

I guarantee that this measure is not intended to reduce the mobility of residents in care homes. It aims to remove any overlap, not to remove severely disabled people's ability to get out and about. We are now considering mobility provision in care homes as part of our wider reform of disability living allowance, not beforehand.

In addition, officials at the Department for Work and Pensions are in regular contact with their counterparts in the Wales Office as work on reform of disability living allowance and its replacement with personal independence payment progresses. In addition, officials for the Welsh Assembly are members of the cross-Whitehall working group on reform of disability living allowance and have been sent updates.

Employment and Support Allowance: Disability

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* disabled people and *(b)* people with cancer on contributory-based employment and support allowance (ESA) in the Work-Related Activity Group who exceed the means testing threshold for income-based ESA. [45575]

Maria Miller: The information requested is given as follows.

All employment and support allowance claimants: Great Britain, May 2010

	Total number of claimants	*Support Group*	*Work-Related Activity Group*
All claimants	527,120	39,110	109,270
People with cancer	20,030	8,200	2,250

Employment and support allowance claimants by payment type: Great Britain, May 2010

	Claimants with a contributory element		*Credit only cases*	
	In Support Group	*Work-Related Activity Group*	*In Support Group*	*Work-Related Activity Group*
All claimants	21,470	57,600	340	730
People with cancer	6,340	1,670	120	20

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Benefit type—The type of employment and support allowance (ESA) is defined as pay status at the caseload date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. This analysis does not include those with unknown or assessment phase/stage.
5. Phase/stage of ESA claim is only available from February 2010 onwards. The phase is derived from payment details held on the source system.
6. Information on whether an ESA claimant is disabled as defined by the Equality Act 2010 is not readily available, therefore the whole claimant figure is provided.
7. 'People with cancer' is by primary assessment only and includes malignant neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behaviour.
8. 'Credits only cases' includes those who exceed the means testing threshold for income-based ESA.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment and Support Allowance: Kirkcaldy

Mr Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency have been in receipt of employment and support allowance payments for more than one year. [37453]

Maria Miller: Information on the numbers of claimants who have been receiving employment and support allowance for over 1 year (as at May 2010) is as follows:

	More than one year
Great Britain	114,310
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	190

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. ESA data are now available on the Department's website at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
3. ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Data include those claimants receiving "credits only".

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Funeral Payments

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of his Department's arrangements for funeral payments and related matters; what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from others on funeral payments and related matters; and if he will make a statement. [48813]

Steve Webb: Funeral payments are not being considered as part of the wider plans for reform of the Social Fund as announced in the "White Paper Universal Credit: welfare that works". Funeral payments will sit outside universal credit and will continue to be delivered by the Department.

I met representatives of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Funerals and Bereavement and the National Association of Funeral Directors on the 6 of December 2010. At that meeting we discussed a range of issues including the powers we are taking in the Welfare Reform Bill to extend access to social fund budgeting loans to include funeral costs and maternity items. This change will provide additional support to those on low incomes at expensive times in their lives.

Housing Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of reasonable job offer his Department plans to use in determining whether a person in receipt of jobseeker's allowance should continue to be entitled to housing benefit. [46041]

Steve Webb: As now, where a claimant does not demonstrate good cause or reason when failing to apply for, or accept, a job when informed of that job by an employment officer of the Department, or where a claimant fails to avail him or herself of a suitable employment opportunity, then that claimant's jobseeker's allowance may be subject to a sanction.

The imposition of such a sanction would have no impact on entitlement for housing benefit. Entitlement to housing benefit will remain as now, with receipt of income-based jobseeker's allowance providing linked entitlement to full eligible housing benefit (which continues even when a JSA sanction is imposed).

Under proposals in the welfare reform White Paper, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works', where a jobseeker's allowance claimant fails to accept a job offer, he or she will be liable to a sanction of three months for a first failure, six months for a second and then three years for a third failure.

Poverty: Children

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to reach the Government's targets for the ending of child poverty. [43446]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to tackling child poverty, as the coalition document affirms. We will be stating how we intend to do this in the forthcoming child poverty strategy, to be published shortly.

Social Fund

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* propensity of applicants for support from the Social Fund to access credit from (i) mainstream providers, (ii) high-cost credit lenders and (iii) credit unions. [49783]

Steve Webb: We do not have comprehensive information in this area. In respect of credit unions, there are a high number of growth fund loan users who also have declared that they have a social fund loan with the average amount across the country being 31%, with a range of 12% in the East of England and 59% in the North East (figures to February 2011).

Social Fund: Airdrie

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans and *(c)* community care grants for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 and (ii) £1,000 were made in Airdrie and Shotts constituency in each of the last five years. [48854]

Steve Webb: In the case of budgeting loans, applicants are asked to tick which of seven categories they need help for, but are not asked to specify the items they require. Television sets would come under the category 'to buy furniture or household equipment'. Data are not available on the number of awards for each category.

The number of crisis loans or community care grants initially awarded for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 or (ii) £1,000 to residents of Airdrie and Shotts constituency in each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10 was extremely low, being recorded as nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the information given does not include applications which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. Data are available for initial awards only. No information is available on the number of awards of the type described which were made after review.

3. Exact numbers have not been given for data protection reasons. 'Nil or negligible' means less than five.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will put in place measures to ensure that disabled people in *(a)* North Swindon constituency and *(b)* England are made aware of (i) policy changes that may affect them and (ii) the support that is available in dealing with such changes. [38309]

Maria Miller: The Treasury published the document, "Overview of Impact of the Spending Review 2010 on Equalities" alongside the spending review announcement. And we have published a summary of the changes which affect disabled people on the Department for Work and Pensions' website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/spending-review-2010

where people are able to register for updates to help keep them fully informed.

We work with disabled people, who can tell us about the overall effect of public policy and services on their lives, in order to inform policy and strategy development. We will continue to communicate as widely as possible with disabled people about how we can make reforms which enable economic recovery, while ensuring that the impact on disabled people and other disadvantaged groups remains proportionate.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has commissioned independent assessments to assess the effect of his proposed reform of the mobility component of disability living allowance for *(a)* people with autism, *(b)* people with sight impairment, *(c)* people with Downs' Syndrome and *(d)* carers; and if he will make a statement. [48861]

Maria Miller: Consideration was given to the equality impacts of the reforms when the proposals were being developed, including the impacts on those with specific conditions. At this point the new assessment has not been finalised and the impact on carers and particular groups of people with disabilities will only be determined when this is completed.

The impact assessment for disability living allowance reform was published on 16 February 2011 and can found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dla-reform-wr2011-ia.pdf

The equality impact assessment for disability living allowance reform was published on 8 March 2011 and can found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-dla-reform-wr2011.pdf

These Documents are published by the Department for Work and Pensions and not commissioned independently.

People were also invited to put forward their views on this proposal as part of the wider DLA reform consultation document which was published on 6 December 2010 and ended on 18 February 2011. The response to this consultation will be published shortly.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has commissioned independent assessments to assess the effect of his proposed reforms to the independent living fund on *(a)* people with autism, *(b)* people with sight impairment, *(c)* people with Downs' syndrome and *(d)* carers; and if he will make a statement. [48970]

Maria Miller: The Government's position on the Independent Living Fund was set out in the written ministerial statement issued on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 85WS.

This made clear that the Independent Living Fund will remain closed permanently to new applications and we will safeguard the position of existing recipients by carrying out a formal consultation on future support for existing ILF users while continuing to administer their awards throughout this Parliament. This consultation will take place following the publication of the report by the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support.

I have met with a number of disability organisations and other bodies to discuss the future of the Independent Living Fund. These include the Chair of Equality 2025, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Disability, and the Disability Charities Consortium and the Disabled Peoples Organisations Group.

It is important to remember that local authorities have primary responsibility for the care of disabled people. Payments from the Independent Living Fund are discretionary awards, not statutory benefits, and do not take precedence over the responsibility of the local authority to make an assessment of a user's needs.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to advertise information on the routes people can take if they wish to request not to have *(a)* winter fuel payment and *(b)* other universal benefits paid to them; and what mechanisms exists for the voluntary return of such payments already received. [48820]

Steve Webb: We have no plans to advertise information on the way in which requests not to receive future benefit payments should be made.

People have always been able to return their winter fuel payment, or any other benefit, if they wish to.

If people wish to return their payment they can do so by sending it to the address on the letter that came with their payment, or to the office that pays their benefit, with a covering letter indicating whether or not they wish to receive the payment in the future.

We ask people who want to return their payment to do so manually so that it can be dealt with securely under existing departmental financial processes and recorded against their benefit account.

Social Security Benefits: Strokes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission research into the economic consequences for individuals of stroke and any subsequent effect on the benefits system. [48827]

Maria Miller: The Department has not previously commissioned, not has any current plans for, any specific research into the economic consequences for an individual of stroke. While any evidence on specific conditions is of interest, previous and current work has focused primarily on the overall economic costs of working age ill-health covering all health conditions which can affect an individual's ability to work.

From a benefit perspective, for both employment support allowance and disability living allowance the premise is that eligibility is based not on someone's condition or impairment but rather their functional capability or the care and mobility needs associated with their disability.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer questions 32883, 32884, 32885 and 32886 tabled on 21 December 2010 for answer on 10 January 2011. [40644]

Maria Miller: I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 15 February 2011; *Official Report* columns 679-80W.

EDUCATION

Academies

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1224W, on academies, what authority will be responsible for *(a)* ensuring each academy's compliance with its funding agreement, *(b)* providing day-to-day advice to academies on operational matters and *(c)* management of the performance of academies after 2012. [48003]

Mr Gibb: In reply to the hon. Member's previous question, the Government replied that these functions are currently the responsibility of the Young People's Learning Agency. It is the Government's intention that subject to the successful passage of the Education Bill, currently before Parliament, a new Education Funding Agency will be set up from 2012. The Education Funding Agency is intended to be an executive agency within the Department for Education. The Government are considering the precise split of responsibilities between the agency and the rest of the Department, including the responsibilities which the hon. Member asked about and will make decisions in due course.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the proposal for Outwood Grange academy to run Valley and Portland secondary schools. [48852]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has received expressions of interest from Outwood Grange Academy Trust to develop plans to replace both Valley and Portland secondary schools with two sponsored academies. These expressions of interest have been approved by the Minister with responsibility for schools. He is writing to the hon. Member formally notifying him of this decision.

Academies: Capital Investment

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the level of capital resources committed by his Department to academies. [40867]

Mr Gibb: The capital budgets for the academies programme in 2010-11 consist of:

a proportion of the budget of £2,241 million which Partnerships for Schools has for meeting the costs of the Building Schools for the Future programme (including academy building projects procured by local authorities under this programme, where the resources committed to academies are determined locally within the funding envelope), academy projects procured separately and the co-location programme

a proportion of the budget of £232 million which the YPLA has for academies' devolved formula capital allocations and two other programmes to facilitate the participation of 14 to 19-year-olds in education

a Department for Education budget for other academy building costs—£265 million.

Academies' programme budgets for 2011-12 and future years have not yet been finalised.

Better Communication Action Plan

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for implementation of the Better Communication Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [49233]

Sarah Teather: The Government have taken forward the recommendations in 'The Better Communication Action Plan' including the appointment of a Communication Champion and the establishment of a Communications Council made up of key voluntary and community sector organisations, health and local authority services and others; a programme of research carried out through The Centre for Educational Development, Appraisal and Research (CEDAR), university of Warwick; a programme of grants to support the alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) sector; a programme from which tools and guidance have been developed to help commissioners across the country improve the way they commission services for children with speech, language and communication needs; and support for the voluntary sector led National Year of Speech, Language and Communication in 2011.

In addition the Government have provided support for the establishment of The Michael Palin Centre in London for children who stammer and a similar centre in the north of England and funded the development of a DVD training resource for teachers.

Children: Deviance and Behaviour Disorders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate has been made of the proportion of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged 15 to 16 in each region who have been recorded as experiencing (i) emotional and (ii) behavioural difficulties in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [48243]

Sarah Teather: The Department collects information on the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN), or at school action plus, by type of need. Behaviour, emotional and social difficulties are one type of need. Information on type of need is not collected for pupils at School Action.

Information on the number and percentage of males and females aged 15 as at 31 August with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties as their primary type of need has been placed in the House Libraries. Information is provided for 2008 to 2010 by local authority.

The latest available information on the primary need of pupils with special educational needs can be found in the 'Special Educational Needs in England' Statistical First Release—in Table 11:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

Children's Centres

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has withdrawn any previously allocated Sure Start funding in *(a)* Brighton Pavilion constituency, *(b)* the Brighton and Hove area and *(c)* England for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) the next four financial years. [49369]

Sarah Teather: Up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year funding for Sure Start Children's Centres has been made through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG). The base allocations for Sure Start Children's Centres for the financial year 2010-11 remain as announced at the start of the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review period. For Brighton and Hove city council and England those figures are as follows:

£

2010-11	*Brighton and Hove*	*England*
Revenue Allocation—Children's Centres and SSLPs	5,223,876	1,135,147,893
Capital Allocation—Children's Centres	539,679	100,999,997

The Department does not allocate funding at constituency level. It is for local authorities to determine how best to allocate available funding within their areas. The allocations for all local authorities can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0071055/sure-start-early-years-and-childcare-grant-and-aiming-high-for-disabled-children-ahdc-grant-la-funding-allocations-for-2010-11

Published allocations for Sure Start Children's Centres are not individually ring-fenced within the main revenue block of the SSEYCG and therefore are notional. Local authorities have the freedom to spend the available funding flexibly within that block to best meet local objectives and priorities, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Grant letter.

In addition to the capital base allocation the Department had been able to offer some carry-forward of unspent SSEYCG capital funding from prior years. Given the unprecedented fiscal deficit the Department restricted carry-forward of SSEYCG capital (which includes Sure Start Children's Centres) to cases where funding was required for the completion of the children's centres programme, or where there was evidence of a contractual commitment either with a building contractor or for goods.

The Department's calculations of carry-forward are predicated on levels of expenditure from prior years. We are awaiting audited financial returns from a number of local authorities, at which point carry-forward for all local authorities will be finalised.

From 1 April 2011, funding for Sure Start Children's Centres will be within the Early Intervention Grant. This is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream which will give local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The Government have ensured there is enough money within the Early Intervention Grant to maintain the network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need. To date only the EIG funding for the financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 has been announced and is only available by local authority-the figures for Brighton and Hove city council and all other local authorities in England are available at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/e/early%20intervention%20grant%20-%20final%20allocations%20methodology.xls

Dance and Drama Awards Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the Dance and Drama Awards scheme. [48967]

Mr Gibb: The Dance and Drama Award scheme will continue in 2011/12. All young people and adults currently in receipt of the Dance and Drama Awards, who started on a two or three year course prior to the academic year 2011/12, will be funded to the end of their courses. Students starting courses in September 2011 will also be able to apply for an award.

From September 2012 onwards, support from the Department for Education to enable students to access specialist dance and drama provision will be focused on young people aged 16-19. We intend to work with the schools currently offering Dance and Drama Awards to consider how best to make such support available. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be considering plans for supporting students aged over 19.

Departmental Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49259]

Mr Gibb: Details of the revenue and capital grants paid by this Department to local authorities in 2010-11 and 2011-12 listed as revenue and capital spreadsheets have been placed in the House Libraries.

From 2011-12 the Department has rationalised all their revenue funding streams to local authorities. There will now be just three national funding streams to local authorities, namely the Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium which are used to fund education services, and the Early Intervention Grant.

The overall amount of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium for 2011-12 will be based on the number and characteristics of pupils in schools in January 2011. That information is provided to local authorities by schools and will not be available to the Department until June 2011 so it is not possible to do a comparison at this stage between the funding that authorities receive in 2010-11 and 2011-12. However overall funding per pupil will be maintained in cash terms and on top of this schools receive a pupil premium for the most disadvantaged pupils.

The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) is a new grant from 1 April 2011. The grant includes funding streams previously paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government so is not comparable to the funding streams previously paid by the Department to local authorities.

From 2011-12 the Department has also rationalised capital funding streams to local authorities. On 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 65-70WS, the Secretary of State announced details of allocation of over £2 billion of capital funding for 2011-12 to schools and local authorities.

The announcement included details of allocation of:

£800 million of basic need funding to local authorities to provide school places where needed in their area, in all categories of taxpayer-funded schools

£858 million of maintenance capital to local authorities to support the needs of the schools that they maintain and for the Sure Start children's centres in their area

£196 million of locally-coordinated VA programme capital to support the maintenance capital needs of voluntary-aided schools

£185 million of devolved formula capital for schools.

The calculation of the change between years is only possible for the capital programmes that have been announced for 2011-12.

For the calculation of the change in real terms we have followed the Treasury's established method. The 2010-11 Devolved Schools Programmes figures have been increased by 2.5% to bring them to forecast 2011-12 prices using HM Treasury's published GDP deflators. The 2.5% deflator is derived from HM Treasury forecasts for GDP deflator increases at the June Budget Report 2010. This is not a measure of the change in construction tender prices during that period and it is not a reliable indicator of the change in local authorities' ability to procure construction works for school buildings.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25492]

Tim Loughton: Figures for the Department's spend on national and regional press cuttings services for the last 12 months are outlined in the following table.

	Department	£ *ALBs*
November 2009	11,293	16,608
December 2009	11,069	14,912
January 2010	12,355	11,327
February 2010	9,266	11,109
March 2010	11,905	13,570
April 2010	11,173	17,143
May 2010	9,066	15,531
June 2010	7,517	14,507
July 2010	9,548	18,062
August 2010	7,260	15,252
September 2010	6,773	13,712
October 2010	6,297	12,534

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Young People's Learning Agency. [48626]

Mr Gibb: The Department is committed to the Government's drive to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs. It is not yet possible to provide a specific estimate of the savings that will be achieved by closing the Young People's Learning Agency. However, the savings that do accrue will contribute to the overall departmental savings of up to £673 million anticipated over the period of the spending review.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency. [48631]

Mr Gibb: The Department is committed to the Government's ambitions to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs. It is too soon to be specific or to provide a detailed breakdown of the savings that will be achieved by closing the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA). Across the spending review period, the savings from closing the QCDA will contribute to the overall anticipated departmental savings of up to £673 million.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group. [48633]

Sarah Teather: The cost of supporting the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group (TPIAG) in 2010-2011 was £51,547. This included the Chair's and members' fees and expenses in connection with attending TPIAG's quarterly meetings and the cost of publications that they produced including their annual report.

The group was set up in 2000 to monitor and advise Ministers on the previous Administration's 10-year teenage pregnancy strategy with a remit to end in 2010. The Secretary of State for Education and I agreed in June 2010 that they could continue until the end of their term in December 2010 but the group's work would not be extended beyond that point. I am satisfied that ministerial colleagues and I can access expert advice on teenage pregnancy through the Department of Health's new Sexual Health Forum.

Education: Ofsted

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions Ofsted has used powers under Schedule 5 to the Education Act 2005 to highlight where a school sixth form is failing or underperforming since the entering into force of the Act; and if he will make a statement. [44554]

Mr Gibb: Schedule 5 of the Education Act 2005 now only applies to maintained schools in Wales due to amendments made to it by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Consequential Amendments) (England and Wales) Order 2010.

Schedule 7 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 was amended by schedule 5 of the Education Act 2005. This required that where a school was removed from special measures, but the Chief Inspector was of the opinion that the sixth form provision of the school required significant improvement, the report must state this.

There were two occasions between 1 September 2005 and 31 March 2010 (the period when schedule 5 applied to maintained schools in England) where a school was removed from special measures and judged to be satisfactory for its overall effectiveness, where this judgment did not extend to its sixth form provision. In both cases the inspection reports stated that the sixth form provision was inadequate. One school has since closed; the sixth form provision has closed in the other school.

Over the same period 71 schools were removed from special measures and deemed to require significant improvement, and were issued with a notice to improve. Some 20 of these schools had sixth form provision, five of which received an inadequate grade for their sixth form provision.

Family Breakdown

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of family breakdown since his appointment. [48124]

Sarah Teather: Our programme for government made clear our commitment to putting funding for relationship support on a stable, long-term footing and making sure couples are given greater encouragement to use existing relationship support.

The Prime Minister announced in December 2010 that the Department for Education would provide £30 million for relationship support over the spending review period. This is a significant increase on current funding levels and shows our commitment to this area of work.

The Department invited voluntary and community sector organisations to bid for a share of this resource, and successful bidders were announced on 25 February 2011 and will begin delivering services from April. The services will include: supporting the training of staff and volunteers who work with families in relationship distress; making sure relationship support is easily available to the families who need it most, including the most disadvantaged; building the evidence base so that we can develop a clear view of what works in this key area; and working with employers and others to encourage families to take up support when they need it.

The Department is also working closely with the Ministry of Justice and Department for Work and Pensions with the aim of joining up support to separating and separated parents so they receive the help they need to work together and make post-separation arrangements that are in their children's best interests.

Family and Relationship Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons the contracting process for family and relationship services has been suspended; what the *(a)* timescale and *(b)* process is for contracting such services; and what steps he plans to take to ensure the provision of specialist parenting helplines after 1 April 2011. [43552]

Sarah Teather: The procurement process for new family and relationship online and telephone support services for parents and families in England was delayed while we considered the full implications for the family sector of the Department for Education's spending review settlement.

I am pleased to inform the hon. Member that departmental officials contacted organisations on 25 February 2011 about the outcome of their applications to the first stage of the procurement process. At the same time, officials provided full details of the tender and a revised procurement timetable to those organisations invited to submit full bids in the second stage of the process. The process for procurement remains unchanged and is fully in line with best practice set by the EU procurement directives and Government procurement rules.

On 25 February officials also contacted those organisations currently in receipt of telephone helpline service grants under the Department's Family Information Direct programme offering extensions of their grant funding for up to three months from 1 April 2011.

I will write to the hon. Member to let him know the outcome of the procurement process when it is completed.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the treatment of the *(a)* property and *(b)* other assets of free schools in circumstances where the body which has established the school no longer wishes to operate it. [21621]

Mr Gibb: Where property and other assets owned by a free school have been acquired from public sources or using public money, or had their value enhanced by capital funding from the Department, we will ensure—through the funding agreement between the Secretary of State and the academy trust responsible for the free school—that the Secretary of State's interests are protected, and that as many of these assets as possible are made available for continuing use in the public education sector. Where this is not possible or desirable, the funding agreement will also make sure that the free school secures the maximum value from any disposal of the asset. In so far as this relates to school buildings and land, this approach accords with the legislation governing the disposal of publicly funded maintained school sites.

The current Education Bill includes additional provisions to protect publicly funded land held by academy trusts so that such land remains available for public use or the public investment can be recouped. Any solely privately owned assets will be governed by the arrangements drawn up between the owner and the academy trust.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the budget is of his Department's free schools group. [24756]

Mr Gibb: £54 million has been set aside in the financial year 2010-11 to meet the capital needs and start-up costs of free schools.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department *(a)* has provided and *(b)* committed to provide to free school projects for which the business case has been approved; what proportion of such provision has been for (i) capital costs, (ii) project development, (iii) start-up costs and (iv) grants for insurance costs; and how much his Department spent in total on the free schools programme was in the period between 12 May 2010 and 1 March 2011. [48932]

Mr Gibb: Every free school is different and the costs will vary between projects. Many of these costs are yet to be determined and paid, so it is not possible to provide detailed figures at this stage. Full details of the support costs of free school projects will be made available shortly after a free school opens, when a total figure is known.

£50 million has been set aside in the financial year 2010-11 to meet the capital needs of free schools. Beyond that, provision forms part of the overall spending review settlement for schools.

Free Schools: Admissions

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on admissions policies for free schools. [49123]

Mr Gibb: Like academies, free schools will be expected to have inclusive admission arrangements. Groups proposing to set up free schools set out their proposed admissions arrangements in their business case and plan. The Secretary of State considers this information when taking a final decision on whether to enter into a funding agreement with the free school academy trust.

Where a free school academy trust has determined the admission arrangements for the free school, any persons or bodies who have been consulted on the arrangements can object by making representations to the Secretary of State. No recent representations have been received on admissions policies for free schools.

Further Education Colleges and Schools: VAT

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the effects of changes in the rate of value added tax on *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* schools. [39519]

Mr Gibb: Colleges are independent providers responsible for the management of their own estates and the delivery of their own programmes and services. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Skills Funding Agency do not collect information about the value added tax paid by further education colleges and have not made any assessment of how the change of rate will affect them.

Schools also have to bear their input VAT. However, as maintained schools are regarded as part of local government for this purpose and local authorities are able to recover schools' input VAT under section 33 of the VAT Act 1994, schools are able to do likewise.

Further Education: Schools

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 951W, on further education: student numbers, whether it is his policy to increase the number of 14 and 15-year-olds spending part of their week studying in a further education college; and if he will make a statement. [49734]

Mr Gibb: The Wolf report was published on 3 March 2011 and recommended that Government should:

> "make explicit the legal right of colleges to enrol students under 16 and ensure that funding procedures make this practically possible. Colleges enrolling students in this age group should be required to offer them a full KS4 programme, either alone or in collaboration with schools, and be subject to the same performance monitoring regime (including performance indicators) as schools."

We intend to publish a Government response to the review shortly.

GCSE

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to set a GCSE floor target for secondary schools for *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020; and if he will make a statement. [49438]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching" published in November 2010 set out floor standards against which the performance of primary and secondary schools would be judged. The White Paper also made clear that, given our expectation that school performance will improve year on year, we intend in future to make the secondary standard more demanding by continuing to raise the level of the floor standard over time. As the current floor standards have just been introduced, no specific plans or time scales for any changes have yet been agreed.

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department made of the evidence cited in footnote 32, paragraph 2.20 of the Schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', on the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics; and whether officials of his Department have discussed the research findings cited with the authors. [49272]

Mr Gibb: Officials have assessed the research findings referred to in footnote 32 to paragraph 2.20 of the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' but have not discussed these findings with the authors.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the proposed Year 1 phonics screening test. [49305]

Mr Gibb: We intend to pilot the Year 1 phonics screening check in approximately 300 schools this June. The cost of the pilot is currently estimated at £250,000 excluding the cost of print and distribution, and monitoring and evaluation, where procurement is not yet complete. We will publish further information on the funding of the pilot once procurement is complete and detailed costs are finalised.

We will continue to gather evidence and take advice from schools about the check during the pilot stage before finalising the arrangements, and confirming the costs, for the introduction of the check as a statutory assessment in 2012.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr Winnick) of 17 and 25 November and 12 December 2010, on the abolition of education maintenance allowance. [34842]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: A single response to the letters to the Secretary of State of 17 and 25 November 2010, signed by Lord Hill, was sent to the hon. Member on 25 January 2011. The Department has no record of receipt of a letter from the hon. Member dated 12 December 2010, but will be happy to reply if he wishes to send the letter again.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much additional funding for schools in Nuneaton constituency he expects to be provided through the proposed pupil premium. [31940]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or the Young People's Learning Agency if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the looked after child pupil premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2010 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 local authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The January 2010 school censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. In the Nuneaton constituency in January 2010 there were 2,031 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £873,330. In addition to this there were 17 pupils known to be eligible for the service child premium, paid at a lower rate of £200 per pupil, which would give rise to a further £3,400. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed. It is not possible to determine the number of parliamentary constituency pupils recorded on the Alternative Provision census or recorded as looked after as they are both local authority, rather than establishment level, returns.

Tables that contain these estimates, disaggregated by local authority, region and constituency can be found in the House Libraries.

Schools

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of schools in each region are participating in his Department's extended schools programme. [48255]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not collect data on the number or proportion of schools in each region that are offering extended services.

Schools: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will align the publication of information about the budgets of maintained schools and academy schools. [37957]

Mr Gibb: Maintained schools spending data is based on consistent financial reporting (CFR) data submitted by schools to the Department. This information was published on 12 January 2011 on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/b0072409/background

Academies, including schools which have recently converted to academy status, are not required to submit CFR data. However, they are required to publish financial information in other formats.

The Department for Education is considering whether there should be changes to the way in which academies report financial information, taking account of the current reporting requirements for maintained schools and the wider transparency agenda across Government, while at the same time considering the need not to impose unnecessary burdens on academies.

School Sports

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average amount of time spent by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children on organised sport or physical activity in each year from 2005 to 2009. [26788]

Tim Loughton: This information is not collected in the format requested. However, the annual PE and sport survey collected data on the percentage of pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE and sport each week, as follows:

Percentage of 5 to 16-year-olds taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week

	Percentage
2004/05	69
2005/06	80
2006/07	86
2007/08	90

In 2008/09 and 2009/10, the survey collected data on the percentage of pupils taking part in at least three hours high quality PE and sport each week, as follows:

Percentage of 5 to 16-year-olds taking part in at least three hours high quality PE and sport each week

	Percentage
2008/09	51
2009/10	57

While this shows an increase on the amount of time pupils have spent doing PE and sport, the proportion of pupils doing competitive sport regularly has remained disappointingly low. Only around two in every five pupils (39%) play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and only around one in five (21%) plays competitive sport regularly against other schools.

Teachers: Qualifications

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proposals he has for the *(a)* requirements of and *(b)* standards to be met by teachers in (i) free schools and (ii) academies. [49148]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', set out our commitment to raising the prestige and esteem of the teaching profession and driving up standards across the board. An independent review of teaching standards is currently under way to establish clear and unequivocal standards which all schools can use to promote the highest quality of teaching in all classrooms

Academies are required, through their funding agreement, to employ teachers who hold Qualified Teacher Status or are otherwise eligible to do specified work under the Education Regulations 2003 and will therefore be subject to the outcomes of the review.

Innovation and diversity are at the heart of free school policy and in this spirit we will not be setting overly prescriptive requirements in relation to qualifications of staff. But proposers will have to make clear how teaching standards will be maintained in their applications. We expect, however, that free schools will find the revised standards a helpful tool for performance management and staff development and will be free to adopt them if they wish.

Teacher Training

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the provision of financial incentives for teacher training in shortage subjects. [49127]

Mr Gibb: As announced in the Schools White Paper 2010—The Importance of Teaching, the Department will shortly publish a discussion document on the funding of initial teacher training, including financial incentives for trainees in priority subjects, from academic year 2012/13. The document will provide the opportunity for those who have an interest in, or are directly involved with, the training of teachers to provide comments on our proposals.

In the meantime, we hold regular discussions with key representatives of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) community and other subject associations which help inform policy development. The Secretary of State for Education wrote to the Training and Development Agency for Schools on 31 January 2011 with details of the training bursary arrangements for graduates who will undertake initial teacher training in academic year 2011/12. Raising the number of specialist science, mathematics and modern language teachers in schools is a high priority for the Government and we have confirmed that trainees in all of these subjects will be offered bursaries at the same levels as 2010/11.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors have provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48290]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not monitor the amount we provide to charities, and to find this information from historical records could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. However, individual payments over £25,000 made by the Department since 1 April 2010 are available for public scrutiny at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/b0065427/departmental-and-alb-spend-over-25000/

The Department does not budget at a level of detail that enables us to forecast the amount to be paid to charities.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 35419, on public appointments, tabled on 18 January 2011. [47133]

Tim Loughton: A response to the hon. Member's question was issued on 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 288W.

Young People: Local Government Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcome of the spending review on local authority funding for children and young people's services. [19268]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* Details of the funding made available to local authorities for children and young people's services were announced on 13 December 2010 as part of the local government finance settlement; and were laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as a statutory report relating to Local Government Finance in England 2011-12 on 31 January 2011. The settlement confirmed the protection for schools and services for vulnerable children as announced in the comprehensive spending review.

Youth Services: Finance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what Sefton Council's Early Intervention Grant Allocation was in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what provision for early intervention has been made in the local government settlement for Sefton Council for 2011-12. [38885]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* The new Early Intervention Grant (EIG) brings together funding for universal as well as specialist services in recognition that both have an important role to play in identifying and supporting families who need extra help before problems escalate, and helping them get more intensive support if needed. It will be introduced from 2011-12 and will be un-ring-fenced. The EIG rationalises a range of centrally directed programmes to ensure local authorities have greater flexibility and freedom.

Although there were centrally directed predecessor grants to the EIG, there was no direct equivalent to it in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Sefton's indicative allocation under the EIG in 2011-12 is £11.3 million.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many pre-charge decisions the Crown Prosecution Service has made in 2010-11 to date. [49800]

The Attorney-General: Between the period of 1 April 2010 and 28 February 2011, the Crown Prosecution Service has made 430,172 pre-charge decisions.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases in *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown Courts the Crown Prosecution Service has presented in 2010-11 to date; and what proportion did not result in a conviction. [49801]

The Attorney-General: Between the period 1 April 2010 and 28 February 2011, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) prosecuted 767,018 cases in magistrates courts, of which 103,748 (13.5%) did not result in a conviction. In the Crown Court, the CPS prosecuted 106,777 defendant cases, of which 21,740 (20.4%) did not result in a conviction.

Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutions there have been for cases involving allegations of *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* rape and *(c)* other sexual offences in 2010-11 to date; and what proportion of such cases have resulted in a conviction. [49854]

The Attorney-General: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for compiling the official crime statistics. Data for the period 2010-11 to date are not yet available. However, according to administrative data held by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the number of prosecutions finalised between 1 April 2010 and 28 February 2011, and the proportion resulting in convictions are as follows:

CPS—domestic violence prosecutions

	Convictions		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Total prosecutions*
1 April 2010 to 28 February 2011	53,738	72.0	74,679

Crown Prosecution Service—rape prosecutions

	Convictions		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Total prosecutions*
1 April 2010 to 28 February 2011	2,212	58.3	3,794

Crown Prosecution Service—sexual offences excluding rape prosecutions

	Convictions		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Total prosecutions*
1 April 2010 to 28 February 2011	6,000	74.4	8,069

While every effort is made to ensure that recorded data are complete and reliable, figures are subject to possible errors in data entry and processing, as with every large scale recording system.

Where a defendant charged with rape is recorded as having been convicted, this may include a conviction for a charge other than rape, including a lesser charge.

Magistrates Courts: Convictions

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of cases presented in magistrates courts by the Crown Prosecution Service *(a)* resulted in a conviction and *(b)* have been discontinued in 2010-11 to date. [49799]

The Attorney-General: Between the period 1 April 2010 and 28 February 2011, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) prosecuted 767,018 cases in magistrates courts, of which 663,270 (86.5%) resulted in a conviction. Of the 103,748 unsuccessful outcomes, 29,707 cases were discontinued equating to 3.9% of total prosecutions in the magistrates court.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 31 March 2011

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Independent Commission on Banking

Mr Umunna: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to ensure a debate on the interim findings of the Independent Commission on Banking after 11 April 2011. [50132]

Sir George Young: I have no plans to provide time for a debate on this subject. As the Chancellor has previously stated, the Government are not going to pre-empt in any way the conclusions that the Independent Commission on Banking may come to in its final report or the Government's response.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Inquiries

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to his Department was of public inquiries in each of the last 10 years. [49901]

Mr Paterson: The four Northern Ireland public inquiries established by the previous Government have cost a total of £301.1 million over the last 10 years.

The Bloody Sunday Inquiry closed in June 2010 and cost a total of £191.5 million. The Billy Wright Inquiry closed in September 2010 and cost £30.5 million. The Robert Hamill Inquiry closed in February 2011 and cost £33.0 million. The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry has cost £46.1 million to date. Detailed costs relating to the Bloody Sunday and Billy Wright Inquiries, broken down by year, are available on the Northern Ireland Office website:

www.nio.gov.uk

Victims Support

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with victims' representatives since his appointment. [49899]

Mr Paterson: I have had 23 formal meetings with a range of victims' groups and other victims' representatives from across the community in Northern Ireland, as well as groups representing victims in Great Britain since my appointment.

The Minister of State has also had a similar number of such meetings since his appointment.

JUSTICE

Bribery Act 2010

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Orpington (Joseph Johnson) of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 750-1W, on what date he expects *(a)* guidance on the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 to be published and *(b)* the Bribery Act 2010 to be implemented. [49701]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice's written ministerial statement of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS.

Courts: Closures

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the work of the family courts is not affected by the closure of family court venues; [50251]

(2) whether family court proceedings will be kept separate from proceedings on criminal cases following the completion of planned court closures in Wales and England; [50252]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS will carefully manage the transfer of workload and administration of cases using the detailed implementation plans that are being developed for each court that is closing.

Over recent years HMCS has been pursuing a Unified Family Court policy which has taken the majority of Family Proceedings Court hearings out of magistrates courts buildings and into the county courts. The court estate already contains a number of co-located courts that include both magistrates and county courts and Crown and county courts and to a smaller extent all three. There will be some additional co-location of criminal and family jurisdictions in magistrates and county courts as a result of court closures. However, there are operational advantages to co-location and so long as suitable arrangements are made, such as segregated facilities or separate days for family and criminal matters, HMCS will seek to increase the flexibility of court buildings and provide multi-jurisdictional services.

Domestic Violence

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the outcomes of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme; and if he will make a statement; [49743]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme; and if he will make a statement. [49755]

Mr Blunt: Positive shifts in attitudes and beliefs are made by participants over the course of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme, and research is planned to look at the impact of perpetrator programmes on reoffending rates.

The funding for the supervision of offenders and the delivery of programmes in the community is part of the general grant given to probation trusts. The costs will vary and depend on a number of factors including the risk presented by the individual, the level of supervision required, and the arrangements for delivery in the particular area. It is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work. However, work is in hand to ensure that all offender services delivered in the community are properly specified and costed so that commissioners can ensure resources are targeted effectively to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of restorative justice in cases of domestic violence; and if he will make a statement. [49746]

Mr Blunt: The use of restorative justice conferencing for domestic abuse cases is contentious as it has implications for the safety of victims. Current guidelines do not encourage this approach in domestic violence cases, with victim-offender mediation pointing to the risks for victims.

An alternative approach is the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP), a programme for convicted offenders aimed at tackling physical and psychological domestic abuse, and linked behaviour issues such as control and misuse of power. It also provides support for victims and their families and, where appropriate, the victim may play a role in demonstrating the impact and consequences of the abuse as part of an offender's rehabilitation.

More generally, the Ministry of Justice assessment of general restorative justice evidence suggests that restorative justice can, in appropriate cases, have a positive impact on the offender's likelihood of re-offending in the future as well as providing more positive outcomes for victims. As set out in the recent MoJ Green Paper on "Breaking the Cycle", we are committed to increasing the range and availability of restorative justice approaches and to give victims a greater chance of seeking reparation for the crimes committed against them. We are looking at how we can make restorative justice a fundamental part of the sentencing process.

Prison Service: Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 796W, on the Prison Service: ICT, whether the Director of Corporate Affairs of HM Prison Service received a bonus in respect of performance in 1999-2000 *(a)* in that year and *(b)* subsequently. [49802]

Mr Blunt: Records from the Home Office Pay Service (HOPS) date back to July 2001 and there is no indication of a bonus payment in respect of performance made to the Director of Corporate Affairs since July 2001.

Prisons: Private Sector

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 577W, on prisoners, how many projects in prisons run by the private sector remunerate prisoners for work they do; and how many prisoners are participating in each such project. [49768]

Mr Blunt: Prisoner remuneration for work is devolved to governors, and in the private estate, to directors of prisons. Central records of local pay scales and, for the private sector, the amount of prisoners involved in specific initiatives are not kept and could be gained only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide support to the work of *(a)* Malalai Joya and *(b)* other Afghan human rights activists in publicising the situation of women in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [50068]

Alistair Burt: We continue to work closely with a wide range of Afghan women's rights advocates to improve the status of women in Afghanistan through funding and capacity building support. Malalai Joya visited the UK in October 2008 to discuss human rights with UK Government officials.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will establish in his Department a specialist team to support those bereaved by homicides of UK nationals overseas. [45234]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to establish a specialist team to support those bereaved by homicides of UK nationals overseas and intends to continue to provide support through its existing country casework teams. Country casework teams work closely with other organisations such as the Victim Support National Homicide Service, and I have met non-governmental organisations such as Support After Murder and Manslaughter Abroad and Missing Abroad to ensure that our support meets the needs of bereaved families.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee on the Purchase of Wine; [48666]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Diplomatic Service Appeals Board; [48667]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Caribbean Board; [48668]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the UK-India Round Table; [48770]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the Foreign Compensation Commission. [48771]

Mr Lidington: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period. I estimate net overall administrative savings from the change in function of the UK-India Round Table over the spending review period of £80,000.

The Foreign Compensation Commission has not changed its function. While it is anticipated that the reform process will generate efficiencies or cost savings, at the current time no estimate of the potential level of either has been made.

The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee on the Purchase of Wines is no longer a non-departmental public body and its members did not receive any salary for their role.

The Diplomatic Service Appeals Board has been formally wound up and only incurred costs when it heard a case. Each case costs approximately £6,000 and we estimate on average we had one case per year.

The abolished Caribbean Board did not incur any costs over the past two years. There was no budget planned for it, and therefore its abolition did not generate any savings.

League of Arab States

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been in contact with (i) Arab League officials and (ii) the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States since the beginning of 2011. [47766]

Mr Hague: Both officials and Ministers are in regular contact with the Arab League. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt) spoke to Amr Moussa on 22 March 2011. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to him on 21 March 2011 and I spoke to him most recently on 16, 19 and 26 March 2011.

Mumbai: Terrorism

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to provide compensation to British nationals involved in the Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008. [43824]

Mr Bellingham: Lead responsibility for ensuring provision of support services and compensation to victims of violent crime rests with the Ministry of Justice.

Previous proposals for compensating victims of terrorism overseas are being considered alongside a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and wider victims' services by the Ministry of Justice.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has assessed the merits of seeking international agreement to declare the sea off the coast of Somalia a conflict zone. [49477]

Mr Bellingham: Somali pirates are engaged in the criminal act of piracy as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The UK does not regard the operation of pirates off the coast of Somalia as meeting the criteria for an armed conflict. Naval forces in the region are conducting law enforcement operations to take robust action against pirates, including detention and prosecution of pirates and the seizure and disposal of piratical equipment in accordance with the requirements of international law, including customary international law of the sea and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The area remains high risk to merchant shipping and the Government work closely with international partners and the international shipping industry to ensure this is as widely understood as possible and necessary precautions are taken. On 16 December 2010, the Lloyd's Joint War Committee added the Indian Ocean/Arabian Sea/Gulf of Aden/Gulf of Oman/Southern Red Sea to the Hull War, Strikes, Terrorism and Related Perils Listed Areas. This increases the insurance requirement for all merchant shipping transiting this area. Industry agreed Best Management Practice has also defined the region as a high risk area, recommending strongly the implementation of increased protection measures for all ships transiting it. In February 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office changed its travel advice to advise against all but essential travel in the area by yacht and leisure craft.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason he announced that additional funding would be provided to tackle piracy by issuing a press release rather than in a written ministerial statement or in a written answer to a parliamentary question. [49506]

Mr Bellingham *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), referred at "The Times Summit" on Africa on 22 March to the Government's provision of £6 million of support during this year for continued building-up of the counter-piracy capacity of regional countries in the Indian Ocean area. This implements the Government's existing counter-piracy assistance policy as outlined in my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Morecambe and Lunesdale (David Morris) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 31W. The cumulative total of £6 million represents a total of 12 separate piracy-related projects taken forward recently in Kenya, the Seychelles and in Somalia itself, including support for courts, prisons, police and coastguard. One project related to the gift of an advanced surveillance camera to the Seychelles coastguard, which was handed over on 24 March and enables more effective surveillance of pirate activity and now provides evidence-standard photography for use in prosecutions. Collectively this represents an important reaffirmation of the UK's commitment to provide comprehensive political, military and capacity building support to our partners in the region in their fight against piracy. I will write to the right hon. Member with more details of these projects, and will place a copy in the Library of the House, along with a copy of the Secretary of State's speech on Africa.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the situation in Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [47560]

Mr Hague: The situation in Yemen is fragile and serious. Over 50 protestors were killed and hundreds wounded in Sana'a on 18 March. In a statement on the same day I expressed my utter condemnation of violence and called for those responsible immediately to cease this brutal reaction to protests and to be held accountable for their actions. Such violence undermines the opportunities for dialogue between all parties in Yemen. The subsequent declaration of a state of emergency does not absolve the Government of Yemen.

In response to the increase in violence, a number of senior Yemeni ministers, ambassadors and military figures have resigned, expressed their support for the protestors and called for an early and peaceful transition of power.

The Government of Yemen must take urgent action to build trust with the opposition and with the protesters. Without this trust, no agreement can be reached. It is vital that President Saleh and the opposition agree on a politically inclusive and democratic process and an orderly transition to find a lasting settlement.

Our travel advice currently advises against all travel to Yemen and recommends that all British nationals in Yemen leave now by commercial means.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF aircraft movements there were between Camp Bastion and Kandahar Airbase for each type of aircraft in each of the last 12 months; what cargo was shipped in each such case; and what the cost to the public purse was of such movements in each such month. [48070]

Nick Harvey: Information on numbers of RAF helicopter movements per month and what freight was shipped on each such air movement between Bastion Airfield and Kandahar is not held.

Information on numbers of RAF fixed wing aircraft movements per month and what freight was shipped on each such air movement between Bastion Airfield and Kandahar Airfield prior to September 2010 is not held.

The numbers of movements of RAF fixed wing aircraft between Bastion Airfield and Kandahar Airfield for each month since September 2010 is as follows:

	Number of RAF fixed wing aircraft movements
September 2010	308
October 2010	277
November 2010	222
December 2010	247
January 2011	242
February 2011	195

The average total monthly marginal cost of these moves was £310,000.

Marginal cost is cost which would not have been incurred had the moves not occurred, the majority of which is the cost of fuel.

Information on what freight was shipped on each such RAF fixed wing air movement between Bastion Airfield and Kandahar Airfield from September 2010 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any helicopters and their crews deployed in Afghanistan will be redeployed as part of Operation Odyssey Dawn; and if he will make a statement. [49737]

Nick Harvey: There are currently no plans to redeploy UK helicopters or their crews from Afghanistan to support operations in Libya.

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that the level of the food and incidentals allowance to which military personnel who are required to live in private rented accommodation because of lack of accommodation within military bases are entitled to is maintained. [49628]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The food and incidentals allowance (FIA) is being continued but will be reduced from £12.41 to £8.50 per day from 1 May 2011. This is largely as a result of basing the estimated cost of the 'food basket', which is used to fix the value of FIA, more closely on prices experienced across the UK.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on departmental theft, whether he has taken steps to ensure that equipment with a military use stolen from his Department does not fall into enemy hands. [50154]

Mr Robathan: All allegations of theft of military equipment are carefully examined and where appropriate the necessary resources, including the Ministry of Defence police, are allocated to investigate the loss, and wherever possible recover the equipment.

The Ministry of Defence has recently set up a Defence Crime Board to provide strategic direction and initiatives aimed at combating the harm done to Defence by crime.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on departmental theft, from which of his Department's sites items of a monetary value of £100 or more have been taken without authorisation since his appointment. [50155]

Mr Robathan: Information regarding the locations of alleged thefts of departmental property recorded on the Ministry of Defence Police crime database, over the value of £100 within the UK, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on departmental theft, from which site or sites the money intended as compensation was taken; what sums were to be disbursed from this money; and who the intended recipients of such compensation were. [50156]

Mr Robathan: Three Ministry of Defence (MOD) cheques for compensation-related matters were dispatched to a non-MOD site in London. The cheques were for £60,000, £16,500 and £8,000. I am not able to identify the location of the offence, nor the degree of losses, as the investigation is ongoing. Nor am I able to identify the intended recipients for privacy and Data Protection reasons. However, I can confirm that neither the intended recipients nor the MOD has suffered a financial loss as a consequence.

HMS Ark Royal

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to save through the decommissioning of HMS Ark Royal in each financial year until 2020. [49912]

Peter Luff: Savings from the withdrawal from service of HMS Ark Royal are estimated at £10 million in financial year 2011-12, £25 million in 2012-13, £35 million in 2013-14, £35 million in 2014-15 and broadly £30 million each year thereafter.

HMS Illustrious

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when HMS Illustrious is due to return to service; [49910]

(2) on what date HMS Illustrious was taken out of service. [49911]

Peter Luff: HMS Illustrious left operational service in January 2010, and entered her docking period in Rosyth in March 2010. She is scheduled to return to operational service in spring 2012, to assume her landing platform helicopter role.

Navy

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future deployment of the Royal Navy in *(a)* collaborative operations and *(b)* core responsibilities. [49104]

Nick Harvey: It is not our policy to provide details of future deployments as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Operation Ellamy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have participated in Operation Ellamy to date. [49920]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* As at 29 March 2011, the number of service personnel participating in Operation Ellamy overseas was 1,400, rounded to the nearest 100.

The precise number of personnel participating in Operation Ellamy will fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish specific figures for personnel deployed in support of operations.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment and capabilities from *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Army have been deployed in Operation Ellamy. [49922]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* The Royal Navy has deployed Type 22 and Type 23 Frigates (HMS Cumberland and HMS Westminster respectively), with a Royal Marine Fleet Standby Rifle Troop onboard. A Trafalgar Class submarine has also been deployed.

The Royal Air Force has deployed a Nimrod R1, Sentinel reconnaissance aircraft and the E3D Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft: Tornado GR4 ground attack aircraft have been deployed to support strike operations in support of the UN Security Council Resolution (1973) No Fly Zone. Typhoon aircraft have also been deployed to enforce the No Fly Zone. VC10, Tristar, C130, C17, HS125 and HS146 aircraft have been deployed for logistic support including air-to-air refuelling.

The Army has deployed forward elements of 30 Signal Regiment and Lead Air Support Squadron to Italy for communications and engineering support respectively.

Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the International Maritime Organisation, *(b)* Shrivenham Defence College, *(c)* the International Institute for Strategic Studies, *(d)* Newport News and *(e)* other external bodies on naval doctrine concerning the threat of piracy. [49461]

Nick Harvey: The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, located with the Defence Academy at Shrivenham, is integral to the Ministry of Defence and its work informs development of naval doctrine. The Department also has good links with the International Maritime Organisation, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the US Maritime Warfare Development Organisations and other international bodies, including NATO and the EU, and conducts routine liaison including on the issue of counter piracy.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the relevance of the UK maritime doctrine to the situation of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the western Indian Ocean. [49476]

Nick Harvey: UK maritime doctrine is at the forefront of both the UK and NATO efforts to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean and is reflected in NATO established doctrine contained in EXTAC 789, which is kept under regular review. Recognised as a lead NATO nation in this area, the UK recently took over ownership of this NATO publication which is widely employed by the Royal Navy alongside UK standard operating procedures for boarding operations.

EXTAC 789 is amended on a regular cycle and discussed annually at the NATO maritime operations working group.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creative Industry Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport who the *(a)* members and *(b)* Chair will be of the Creative Industry Council announced in the 2011 Budget; and what its remit will be. [49883]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* I anticipate that the members of the Council will contain a representation of the key sub sectors and trade associations from across the creative industries. Currently the Council is co-chaired by myself and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the Creative Industry Council announced in the 2011 Budget will be led by industry or by Government. [49884]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The purpose of the council is to provide a forum which can act as a voice for industry both within Government and outside, including in the financial sector. To that end the agenda needs to be led by industry as they are best placed to identify the most pressing problems facing the sector.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* arts and cultural performances and *(b)* competitive sports events he has attended in an official capacity since his appointment. [48796]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* Since my appointment I have attended 11 arts and cultural performances and eight competitive sports events in an official capacity.

Museums: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will put in place mechanisms to monitor the effect on admission charges to local and regional museums of changes in funding to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* regional development agencies and *(c)* higher education institutions; and if he will publish the outcomes of such monitoring. [49948]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) monitor the overall effects of changes in local government funding to local and regional museums, particularly the effects of local government funding changes on the museums funded through the MLA's Renaissance in the Regions programme. There are no plans to publish data on the specific impact of changes in funding from local authorities, regional development agencies and higher education institutions on the price of admission to local and regional museums.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the Big Society initiative. [42656]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I and my Department's Ministers are actively involved with numerous charities on a private basis as detailed in the list of Ministers' interests, recently published by the Cabinet Office, as well as our involvement in local voluntary activities in our constituencies.

Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether Ministers in his Department plan to meet Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors when they deliver their petition against changes in his Department's expenditure. [27412]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

I was very pleased to have been able to meet the Young Ambassadors when they delivered their petition about funding for school sport. In addition, I had a further, very productive, meeting with the Young Ambassadors steering group at the House of Commons on 21 February 2011.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in each ethnic group were living in poverty in each of the last 10 years. [48478]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living. The latest available data cover 2008-09.

Due to small sample sizes involved, estimates by ethnic group are based on a three year average.

Percentage of children living in relative poverty before housing costs (BHC) by ethnic group of head of household

			Percentage of children		
Period	*White*	*Black and Black British*	*Indian*	*Pakistani/ Bangladeshi*	*All other categories*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	24	39	36	68	37
1998-99 to 2000-01	23	37	34	68	33
1999-2000 to 2001-02	22	34	33	66	31
2000-01 to 2002-03	21	33	25	65	31
2001-02 to 2003-04	20	34	28	64	31
2002-03 to 2004-05	20	33	28	60	32
2003-04 to 2005-06	19	33	30	56	32
2004-05 to 2006-07	20	31	27	55	31
2005-06 to 2007-08	20	30	28	58	30
2006-07 to 2008-09	20	34	27	58	30

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These use disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Due to small sample sizes involved, estimate by ethnic group are based on three year averages.
4. From 2001-02 it is possible to split the ethnic groups further. It is not possible to separate out definitional and real effects.
5. The 'all other categories' group includes mixed, Chinese and other.
6. Data up to 2001-02 correspond to Great Britain, while data from 2002-03 correspond to the United Kingdom.
7. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
8. Relative poverty is defined as: children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.
9. These statistics are publicly available in the Households Below Average Income report on the DWP website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai_2009/index.php?page=contents

Table 4.5, page 74 for latest three-year average.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Departmental Public Consultation

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public consultations his Department and its predecessors have conducted in each of the last 10 years; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost to the public purse of conducting each consultation was. [46590]

Chris Grayling: The information is not held centrally in the Department, and could be provided only partially, and at disproportionate cost.

This Department publishes consultation information on its website which can be accessed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/

This website contains information about consultations undertaken, and any published responses, from 2009 to date. This will show each consultation and how long it was open for. Consultation responses, where published, will show the number of responses received in that consultation. We do not quantify costs of consultations, primarily because the main cost in most cases is that of the staff time involved.

Earlier consultations are archived at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/publications-archive/consultations-papers/

It is possible to request published consultations and responses on an individual basis.

Disability Living Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with each disability are in receipt of an indefinite award of disability living allowance. [39400]

Maria Miller: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Number of indefinite awards of disability living allowance in payment by main disabling condition—May 2010

Condition	*All awards*	*Indefinite awards*
All	3,157,300	2,239,500
Arthritis	585,400	509,500
Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease	215,700	169,200
Blindness/Visual Disease	69,900	61,800
Stroke Related	111,300	95,300
Learning Difficulty	360,300	210,900
Mental Health Causes	514,900	277,500
Epilepsy	73,100	42,300
Deafness	41,500	27,700
Malignant Disease	82,300	37,700
Chest Disease	93,800	84,500
Back Ailments	247,300	196,300
Heart Disease	140,100	124,900
Parkinson's Disease	18,700	18,300
Diabetes Mellitus	60,200	33,800
Renal Disorders	15,500	8,300
AIDS	8,600	7,300
Skin Disease	16,400	5,400
Frailty	2,900	2,800
Multiple Sclerosis	68,800	64,800

Number of indefinite awards of disability living allowance in payment by main disabling condition—May 2010

Condition	*All awards*	*Indefinite awards*
Other	430,600	261,100

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
5. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate. DLA figures are from 5% sample data.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer or 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 739W, on disability living allowance, what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Education and *(b)* the devolved Administrations on (i) the introduction of a single assessment process for a child's social care, health and special educational needs and (ii) the use of such a process for personal independence payments. [49162]

Maria Miller: I have had discussions with the Minister with responsibility for children and families about the best approach to exploring a single assessment process and education, health and social care plan and I have also agreed to explore whether the single assessment process might also be used to support claims for disability living allowance and personal independence payment.

I have written to the Deputy Minister for Social Services in the Welsh Assembly Government and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing in the Scottish Government about disability living allowance reform. In addition, officials at the Department for Work and Pensions are in regular contact with their counterparts in the territorial offices as work on reform of disability living allowance and its replacement with personal independence payment progresses. Officials from the territorial offices are members of the Cross Whitehall Working Group on reform of disability living allowance and have been sent updates.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency who will have their disability living allowance (i) reduced and (ii) removed as a result of his Department's planned welfare reforms. [49306]

Maria Miller: Support in personal independence payment will be focussed on those who face the biggest barriers to independent living. The assessment is being developed and at this stage, and therefore an assessment is not available of the impact changes could have on existing disability living allowance, or future recipients. We are working with disabled people and organisations that represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment and the outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change. We have already announced that personal independence payment will be a non taxable, non means-tested benefit payable to people in and out of work.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects on the ability of care home residents to participate in community activities of removing the mobility component of disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [49891]

Maria Miller: The Government have listened to charities and other stakeholders and will not remove the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people funded by the state in residential care in October 2012.

The needs of care home residents will be considered at the same time as other current and future recipients of DLA as part of the wider reform of DLA. The Government remain fully committed to supporting disabled people.

Disability: Motor Vehicles

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the eligibility criteria for road tax exemptions for vehicles adapted for use by disabled people; [49487]

(2) if he will review legislation on the exemption from road tax of adapted vehicles for disabled people over the age of 65 years who are ineligible for disability living allowance. [49525]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Vehicle excise duty exemptions are available to mobility scooters, recipients of the disability living allowance higher rate mobility supplement and organisations devoted to the care of disabled people. The eligibility criteria for exemption are consistent with the welfare policies inherited from the previous Government.

A consultation on disability living allowance reform closed on 18 February 2011 and the Government will publish a response shortly. Vehicle excise duty and associated exemptions are kept under review.

Employment Schemes

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the number of persons in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Great Britain who will participate in the Work Programme in each of the next four financial years. [47015]

Chris Grayling: We have provided volumes for each contract package area but have not included further geographical breakdowns. Therefore we do not have Work Programme volumes for Glasgow.

The following table includes the number of customers expected to join the Work Programme in Scotland and Great Britain.

	Scotland	Great Britain
2011-12	57,000	605,000
2012-13	53,000	565,000
2013-14	47,000	510,000
2014-15	36,000	395,000

Note:
Figures for 2011-12 are based on a full year of volumes assuming contracts begin in April 2011; a later contract start date will result in lower volumes.

However, the number of people actually supported by Work Programme providers will be more than the number of customers starting the Work Programme in any one year because customers are supported for two years.

For example, in 2012-13 Work Programme providers are expected to be supporting a total of 1,170,000 customers across Great Britain: 605,000 customers who are expected to join the Work Programme in 2011-12 and are in their second year on the Work Programme, and 565,000 customers who are expected to join the Work Programme in 2012-13 and are in their first year on the Work Programme.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of clients on each fit for work pilot scheme has been diagnosed with each type of illness. [48475]

Chris Grayling: The information is in the table:

Main health condition of fit for work service clients by pilot

			Percentage
		Main health condition reported by clients	
Fit for work service pilot	*Main health conditions*	*Musculoskeletal disorders*	*Other conditions*
Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell and Solihull	32	19	48
Dundee	13	84	2
Eastern and Coastal Kent	43	35	22
Greater Manchester	53	4	43
Kensington and Chelsea	49	45	6
Leicestershire	60	26	14
North Staffordshire	59	25	16
Nottinghamshire	69	10	21
Rhyl	49	40	10
Scotland-wide	17	72	10
Wakefield District	53	16	31
All pilots	39	37	24

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole figure and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures cover the period April 2010 to February 2011.
3. 'Other conditions' include cardiovascular conditions, respiratory diseases, injuries, neurological conditions, obesity and conditions not recorded.
Source:
Management Information on Fit for Work Services.

Employment Schemes: Cancer

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision he plans to put in place for people recovering from cancer who remain unable to return to work for longer than a year from the start of their treatment under his proposals for welfare reform; and if he will make a statement. [49145]

Maria Miller: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill we intend to introduce a one-year time limit to contributory employment support allowance (ESA) for those in the Work Related Activity Group.

People in the Support Group will not have their benefit time limited because they have the most severe health conditions or disabilities and are the least likely to move into work.

People receiving income-related ESA will not have their benefit time limited.

In the case of those with cancer who are unable to work and have been placed in the Support Group, they will continue to receive targeted and unconditional support through employment and support allowance, and will not be affected by our proposals to introduce a time limit. After one year, those in the Work Related Activity Group will still be able to apply for income-related ESA, which will act as a safety net for those without the means to support themselves.

Employment and support allowance customers, including those on contributory ESA, will have access to our full range of employment support including the Work Programme. Those whose benefit has come to an end can remain on the programme if they wish, which will ensure that they continue to receive all the support they need to help them return to, and remain in, work.

Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in each (i) month, (ii) quarter and (iii) year since January 2000; and if he will make a statement. [49611]

Maria Miller: The information requested is given in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) caseloads, February 2000 to August 2010

	IB/SDA	ESA
February 2000	2,724,030	n/a
May 2000	2,728,090	n/a
August 2000	2,756,510	n/a
November 2000	2,764,140	n/a
February 2001	2,792,030	n/a
May 2001	2,795,340	n/a
August 2001	2,805,450	n/a
November 2001	2,787,710	n/a
February 2002	2,787,220	n/a
May 2002	2,807,620	n/a
August 2002	2,811,430	n/a
November 2002	2,818,480	n/a
February 2003	2,818,570	n/a
May 2003	2,815,660	n/a
August 2003	2,819,050	n/a
November 2003	2,822,270	n/a
February 2004	2,819,160	n/a
May 2004	2,814,710	n/a
August 2004	2,817,010	n/a
November 2004	2,814,410	n/a
February 2005	2,799,870	n/a
May 2005	2,783,720	n/a
August 2005	2,767,740	n/a
November 2005	2,752,900	n/a
February 2006	2,747,490	n/a
May 2006	2,730,000	n/a
August 2006	2,724,980	n/a
November 2006	2,714,950	n/a
February 2007	2,704,100	n/a
May 2007	2,685,320	n/a
August 2007	2,683,160	n/a
November 2007	2,683,750	n/a
February 2008	2,659,650	n/a
May 2008	2,637,560	n/a
August 2008	2,632,000	n/a
November 2008	2,593,010	53,770
February 2009	2,468,620	175,810
May 2009	2,374,210	288,270
August 2009	2,299,580	374,440
November 2009	2,233,880	425,770
February 2010	2,176,530	479,430
May 2010	2,126,690	527,120
August 2010	2,082,570	563,980

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Data includes people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
4. Data for these benefits are only available on a quarterly basis.
5. The data provided is published at: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
6. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to severe disablement allowance were accepted. In addition from 27 October 2008, no new claims to incapacity benefit were accepted.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Low Incomes

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department made of the level of in-work poverty. [47709]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not publish projections of the expected levels of in-work poverty.

Performance-related Pay

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made any assessment of the effects on workplace stress of trends in the use of performance-related pay. [48476]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive has made no assessment of the effects of performance-related pay (PRP) on workplace stress.

Personal Independence Payments

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether recipients under the age of 65 in receipt of the proposed personal independence payment will be eligible to receive the benefit after they reach pension age. [49470]

Maria Miller: Individuals will be able to make a new claim for personal independence payment up to the age of 65 (or state pension age, if that is higher). We recognise that individuals who develop additional needs earlier in their lives have had less opportunity to earn and save for later life. As a result, we intend in regulations to allow individuals already in receipt of personal independence payment when they reach state pension age to continue to receive the benefit, subject to the entitlement conditions continuing to be satisfied.

Personal Independence Payment: Autism

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a face-to-face assessment for the personal independence payment will be necessary for all people with autism, including those with significant paper evidence such as a comprehensive diagnostic report. [49929]

Maria Miller: The Government propose to replace disability living allowance with the personal independence payment in 2013-14. We are considering the most appropriate delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and no decisions have yet been taken. We believe that advice from an approved independent professional will be an important part of ensuring that assessments are objective and consistent. In most cases, we expect this to involve a face-to-face consultation to enable an in-depth look at an individual's circumstances.

We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the assessment development group that we have established is considering. For example, they believe that the new assessment should explicitly take account of the impact of a health condition or impairment, including autistic spectrum disorders, on an individual's ability to communicate. This would set it apart from the current DLA assessment. We also recognise the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. Both I and departmental officials have met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

Personal Independence Payments

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with organisations representing people with *(a)* autistic spectrum disorders, *(b)* Tourette's syndrome and *(c)* depression on the system of face-to-face assessments proposed for the personal independence payments scheme. [49172]

Maria Miller: We are considering the delivery model for the personal independence payment assessment and decisions have not yet been taken on the detail of its operation. We believe that advice from a suitably trained and approved individual, for example a health care professional, will be an important part of ensuring that the assessment is more objective and consistent. In most cases, we expect this to involve a face-to-face consultation to enable an in-depth look at an individual's circumstances.

Both I and departmental officials have met with many organisations representing disabled people including the National Autistic Society and Mind to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with these conditions. We have not met with any groups representing Tourette's syndrome although we would be more than happy to do so to discuss the concerns they have.

We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on DLA reform, "Who benefits?", and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design. To ensure that we get this reform right, we will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

Work-based Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive has arrangements to *(a)* measure and *(b)* assess mental stress in the workplace. [48479]

Chris Grayling: Since 2002, the HSE has commissioned questions in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the Office for National Statistics, to gain a view of work-related illness based on individuals' perceptions; this includes work-related stress. The Labour Force Survey is a national survey of over 50,000 households conducted each quarter which provides information on the GB labour market, and is intended to be statistically representative of the population of people of working age.

In 2005, the HSE also gained access to a system called The Health and Occupation Reporting network (THOR); this is a network of voluntary surveillance schemes, one of which is specifically dedicated to monitoring work-related mental ill health. Under this network, GPs and specialist doctors (in this particular scheme, psychiatrists and occupational physicians) undertake to systematically report all new cases that they see in their clinics. These reports are collated and analysed by the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Manchester University. Figures published by the HSE relate to Great Britain only, although the THOR schemes do collect reports from doctors throughout the UK.

Since 2004 we have also commissioned a series of Psychosocial Working Conditions surveys, also through the Office for National Statistics.

Using these tools, the HSE is able to estimate the incidence and prevalence of work-related stress within the British work force. It also works with stakeholders to establish the veracity of the information gathered and includes evidence from other sources when considering the advice and guidance it provides to employers. These other data include surveys by major employers, Trades Union Congress, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, the European Commission and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

For more information about the research conducted for the HSE please go to:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/stress/index.htm

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department and its predecessors have *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on levels of stress in the workplace in each of the last 10 years. [48510]

Chris Grayling: Since 2002, the HSE has commissioned questions in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the Office for National Statistics, to gain a view of work-related illness based on individuals' perceptions; this includes work-related stress. The Labour Force Survey is a national survey of over 50,000 households conducted each quarter which provides information on the GB labour market, and is intended to be statistically representative of the population of people of working age.

In 2005 the HSE gained access to a system called The Health and Occupation Reporting network (THOR); this is a network of voluntary surveillance schemes, one of which is specifically dedicated to monitoring work-related mental ill health. Under this network, GPs and specialist doctors (in this particular scheme, psychiatrists and occupational physicians) undertake to systematically report all new cases that they see in their clinics. These reports are collated and analysed by the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Manchester University. Figures published by the HSE relate to Great Britain only, although the THOR schemes do collect reports from doctors throughout the UK.

Since 2004 we have also commissioned a series of Psychosocial Working Conditions surveys, also through the Office for National Statistics.

Using these tools the HSE is able to estimate the incidence and prevalence of stress within the British workforce. The LFS results point to a fairly static picture with around 450,000 people each year stating that they are suffering from stress caused or made worse by their current or previous work. However the number of working days lost to sickness absence as a result of work related stress has decreased from an estimate of almost 13 million in 2001-02 to an estimate of 9.8 million in 2009-10. For details of the information commissioned by the HSE, and data from THOR, please see the HSE website, which provides comparison tables for the years currently available, at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/stress/index.htm

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the childcare support needed in the universal credit to make work pay for a lone parent earning £6 an hour for 25 hours a week who has a child aged *(a)* one and *(b)* six. [49515]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 28 March 2011]*: Estimating the amount of child care support that will be available to lone parents in universal credit in order to make work pay will depend on overall affordability and weekly child care costs.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced in the second reading of the Welfare Reform Bill that there would be an additional element in universal credit to support child care costs, and that at least the same amount of money will be invested in this as in the existing system. He will provide more detail during passage of the Bill.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at what rate he expects the winter fuel allowance to be paid to people aged *(a)* over 60 and *(b)* over 80 years in each of the next five financial years. [50325]

Maria Miller: Winter fuel payments for winter 2011-12 will be £200 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over. DWP forecasts of winter fuel payment expenditure assume that the level of payments will remain constant over the next five years.

Work Capability Assessment

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that the findings of the review of work capability assessment will be considered in the development of a new assessment for the personal independence payment. [49928]

Maria Miller: It is important to be clear that the new assessment for the personal independence payment (PIP) will be very different to the work capability assessment (WCA) used in employment and support allowance (ESA). This recognises that ESA and PIP are different benefits paid for different reasons. The emerging assessment for PIP will focus on individuals' ability to carry out key everyday activities, rather than capability for work and direct measures of associated functions as in the WCA.

We are, however, seeking to learn from the overall experience of delivering the WCA. As part of this we are looking closely at the findings of the first independent review carried out by Professor Malcolm Harrington, to see where they can assist with the design of the PIP claim and assessment processes. For example, we fully recognise the need to ensure that these processes are transparent and empathetic; and are considering the scope to use mental, intellectual and cognitive champions to support the assessment as recommended by Harrington.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office provided to each charity it funds in each year since its inception; and how much she has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48285]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has provided the following amounts of funding to charities since it was established as a separate Department on 12 October 2007:

Financial year	*Funding recipient*	*Amount (£)*
2008-09	British Association for Adoption and Fostering	20,200
	Survivors Trust	153,000
	Payment to Home Office to aid the funding of rape crisis centres	176,052
2009-10	British Association for Adoption and Fostering	24,075
	Equality South West	41,000
	Rape Crisis England and Wales	1,080,000
2010-11	Equality South West	41,000
	Rape Crisis England and Wales	85,000
	Payment to Ministry of Justice to aid the funding of rape crisis centres	1,000,000

The GEO is to merge with the Home Office under a machinery of government transfer from 1 April 2011. Future plans for the funding of charities have yet to be agreed.

TRANSPORT

Association of Train Operating Companies: Trade Unions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have met representatives of (i) the Association of Train Operating Companies and (ii) rail trade unions since 8 May 2010. [49892]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers have met the Association of Train Operating Companies and rail trade unions from time to time in the course of their duties.

Officials meet the Association of Train Operation Companies regularly in the course of their day to day duties. Officials have been present when Ministers have met rail trade union officials.

Aviation

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of passengers expected to leave the UK by air in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [48220]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport expects to publish air passenger demand forecasts later this year to support the development of a new policy framework for UK aviation.

Aviation: Working Hours

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the European Aviation Safety Agency's Notice of Proposed Amendment on flight time limitations; and by what date he expects the authority to have published its response to the agency's proposals. [48061]

Mrs Villiers: Officials from the Department have discussed the Notice of Proposed Amendment with the Civil Aviation Authority on a number of occasions. The CAA has submitted its comments to the European Aviation Safety Agency and published them on its website:

www.caa.co.uk

Blue Badge Scheme

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of providing additional assistance to persons aged over 65 who cannot apply for automatic qualification for the Blue Badge scheme because they are not eligible for the mobility component of disability living allowance. [49955]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* People over 65, who cannot claim the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance, can still qualify for a Blue Badge. They are able to apply for a badge directly to their local authority under the 'eligible subject to further assessment' criteria. This applies to anyone over the age of two years old; who has a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

People are also able to apply under the automatic criteria if they are registered blind or are in receipt of the War Pensioners Mobility Supplement.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee. [48686]

Norman Baker: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 91W. This provides our best current estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).

The decision on DPTAC was not taken for financial reasons.

Driving: Young People

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals to improve driver testing and training processes he is considering for those aged between 17 and 25. [49812]

Mike Penning: We want to ensure that all young drivers develop and maintain the knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be safe and responsible road users. Effective arrangements for driver training and testing are among the issues that we shall address in our new Strategic Framework for Road Safety.

Railways: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the financial statement of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 958-9, whether the £200 million additional investment in regional railways is for the financial year 2011-12; when he expects to allocate this funding to individual projects; and if he will make a statement. [49893]

Mrs Villiers: On 23 March 2011, the Chancellor announced an additional £200 million of investment in regional railways. This investment will be added to Network Rail's Regulated Asset Base during the current Rail Control Period (2009 - 2014).

The Department for Transport will agree a list of projects to be funded from this investment with Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation. We will make a further statement on this investment shortly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chief Scientific Adviser

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the role of Chief Scientific Adviser to his Department. [50151]

Gregory Barker: The role of the Chief Scientific Advisor is to ensure DECC's policy and decision-making are underpinned by robust science and engineering evidence and long-term thinking. I have no plans to change this.

Electricity: Meters

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of unsafe electrical and gas installations which will be identified during the course of the smart meter installation programme; and whether energy suppliers will be required to *(a)* assess the safety of such installations and *(b)* disconnect unsafe installations during smart meter installation. [48576]

Charles Hendry: The smart meter programme team has worked with a wide range of industry and other stakeholders to consider the issues that could be identified at the point of smart meter installation, including both operational and safety issues. Most of these issues are well understood and are dealt with by industry as part of business-as-usual activities. There is limited quantitative information and a formal assessment of the potential number of installations which might be identified as unsafe has not been made to date.

The Government consider that industry is best placed to continue to identify and resolve operational issues, in collaboration with other interested parties. One role of the programme will be to ensure that the scale and the nature of such issues are well understood by all parties and seek assurance that there are appropriate plans and processes in place to resolve them.

Energy: Housing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1295-96W, on energy: housing, what research he has commissioned to assess the effects of pricing on consumer demand; which companies or organisations have been commissioned to undertake the work; what the overall cost to the public purse of the research is; what deadline has been set for completion of the research; and what the terms of reference and payments level for the research are. [50157]

Gregory Barker: DECC has commissioned two pieces of research which help to assess the impact of price, among other factors, on consumer demand for the Green Deal:

A survey of members of the public designed to identify factors that change perception of Green Deal, including variations in the costs and financial terms.

An economic model is also being created to better understand how to simulate consumer uptake of energy efficiency measures under a number of parameters, including variations in the price of measures. The model will be populated with data from the consumer survey.

Element Energy Ltd. partnered with Cambridge Architectural Ltd. and Gfk NOP (respectively) have been commissioned to undertake these projects. The overall cost of the work will be £210,000 plus VAT.

The model is scheduled to be completed at the end of August 2011 and findings should be available in DECC's consultation paper on the Green Deal and impact assessments planned for autumn 2011.

Flood Control: Tsunami

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of *(a)* a tsunami and *(b)* severe flooding on the Somerset Levels in the vicinity of Hinkley Point power station; and what records his Department holds on incidents of (i) tsunamis and (ii) severe flooding at sites of UK nuclear installations. [50628]

Charles Hendry: There is no reason to expect a similar scale of seismic activity in the UK as has happened in Japan. The largest recorded UK earthquake (Dogger Bank) was 65,000 times less powerful than the one recently experienced by Japan. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) has asked the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

The Environment Agency has advised that it is reasonable to conclude that at Hinkley Point any new nuclear power station on the site could be protected against flood risk throughout its lifetime and including the potential effects of climate change, storm surge and tsunami.

Possible sites for nuclear new build were considered in the revised draft Nuclear National Policy Statement against flood risk including the potential effects of sea level rises resulting from climate change. We are currently considering the responses to the consultation on the revised Nuclear NPS.

The results are within the site assessments for each site in Volume II of the NPS:

https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/docs/AnnexestoEN-6-RevisedDraftNuclearNPS%28VolumeII%29-October2010.pdf

Fuel Oil

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Office of Fair Trading on its enquiry into the regulation of the heating oil market. [50483]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Lady to the written ministerial statement I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS.

I wrote to the chief executive of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 19 January 2011 to ask him to bring forward the competition and consumer study into off grid energy, and explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. The OFT study will provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and will establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly. The OFT intends to publish a report setting out its findings and recommendations on off-grid energy supply in October.

I have had no further discussions on this matter with the OFT.

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on meeting any shortfall which may arise as a result of *(a)* failure of renewable heat technologies to deliver adequate carbon savings and *(b)* premature product failure of renewable heat technologies by securing additional resources from (i) consumers, (ii) the public purse, (iii) manufacturers and (iv) Green Deal providers. [50116]

Gregory Barker: The Renewable Heat Incentive will be reviewed regularly against a number of criteria, including its performance in meeting renewables targets and delivering carbon savings. As announced on 10 March, a requirement of the RHI is that installations up to 45kWth must use installers and products accredited under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), or equivalent, to be eligible for RHI. MCS gives assurances about likely quality, durability and performance of installations.

We will use the Renewable Heat Premium Payment, starting this year, to monitor and learn from the performance of domestic renewable heat installations. The information we receive will help enable Government, manufacturers, installers and consumers to better understand how to maximise performance of the technologies supported.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cash cap for his Department's feed-in tariff scheme is for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [48931]

Gregory Barker: In the spending review, spending on FITs was confirmed as:

	£ million
2011-12	80
2012-13	161
2013-14	270
2014-15	357
Total (over four years)	868

Shale Gas Mining

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what responsibility he has for issuing policy guidance and directions on shale gas mining in Wales. [50153]

Charles Hendry: The Department is responsible for licensing all UK oil and gas exploration and production activities onshore in Great Britain, including conventional and unconventional resources. Planning is a devolved matter and so it is the responsibility of the National Assembly Government to set out planning policy on shale gas in Wales.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how many and *(b)* what species of non-human primates imported for the purposes of scientific research were categorised as (i) captive-born or F1 generation and (ii) captive-bred or F2+ generation in 2010. [50237]

Lynne Featherstone: The information currently submitted to the Home Office following the acquisition of each batch of non-human primates provides evidence that animals have been born in captivity, but does not record whether animals are Fl or F2+. However, from other information available we estimate the respective totals to be as follows:

Primate species	*Fl*	*F2+*	*Total*
Rhesus macaque	0	92	92
Cynomolgus macaque	1,256	582	1,838
Total	1,256	674	1,930

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what species of non-human primates were imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research in 2010; from which countries; and what the species was in each case. [50238]

Lynne Featherstone: The requested information is as follows:

Number of non-human primates imported in 2010 reported to date

Country of export	*Rhesus macaque*	*Cynomolgus macaque*	*Total*
China	0	74	74
Mauritius	0	1,284	1,284
Netherlands	92	52	144
Vietnam	0	428	428
Total	92	1,838	1,930

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of vehicles seized for unpaid vehicle excise duty on the basis of information provided through the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system in the last three years were later shown to have been legally taxed and insured. [50032]

James Brokenshire: This information is not collated or held by the Home Office.

Common Travel Area

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of the Common Travel Area; and if she will make a statement. [50263]

Damian Green: We are committed to preserving the Common Travel Area (CTA) and its benefits for legitimate travellers, while at the same time improving the safeguards against abuse of the CTA. We have a clear programme of work with Ireland and the Crown dependencies to prevent abuse of the CTA by strengthening the external CTA border. We will maintain our existing internal controls to combat abuse within the CTA.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future management of the National DNA Database. [50102]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is currently working with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), and the wider police service, to determine appropriate arrangements for the continued management of the National DNA Database after the NPIA is phased out.

Entry Clearances: Students

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects of her proposed reforms to the student immigration route on economic regeneration and international competitiveness of the UK economy. [49944]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department announced the Government's plans to reform the student immigration system on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 855-872. An impact assessment will be published in due course.

Government Communications

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work in her Department's Research, Information and Communications Unit; how much was spent on the unit's operation in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10; what she expects to spend on the unit's operation in 2010-11; and what proportion of the unit's total capacity costs in each such year each figure represents. [47296]

Nick Herbert: For the purposes of this answer the amount spent on the unit's 'operation' has been interpreted to mean all staff and non-staff administration costs, and 'total capacity costs' to mean total expenditure.

Twenty two members of staff drawn from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Home Office, work full-time in Research Information and Communications Unit (RICU). In addition, the Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development each funds one member of staff engaged part-time on RICU business. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), originally one of three parent Departments, stopped funding RICU and withdrew its seconded employees during 2010, in line with its new remit to lead work to promote integration separately.

Total RICU expenditure in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and projected spend for 2010-11 is set out in the following two tables. The first indicates the proportion of administration (staff and non-staff) and programme costs met by the Home Office, FCO and DCLG in each of the three years. The second shows administration and programme costs as a percentage of total RICU expenditure for the same three years.

RICU Expenditure by Government Department

Financial year	*Contributing Department*	*Administration costs (£m)*	*Departmental share (%)*	*Programme costs (£m)*	*Departmental share (%)*	*Total spend (£m)*	*Departmental share (%)*
2008-09	Home Office	1.14	75	0.11	7	1.25	39
	FCO	0.15	10	0.81	50	0.96	30
	DCLG	0.25	15	0.70	43	0.95	30
	RICU total	1.55	—	1.62	—	3.17	—
2009-10	Home Office	0.96	65	2.08	35	3.04	41
	FCO	0.36	24	2.65	45	3.01	41
	DCLG	0.18	11	1.18	20	1.36	18
	RICU total	1.50	—	5.91	—	7.41	—
2010-11[1]	Home Office	0.80	69	0.28	9	1.08	26
	FCO	0.29	25	2.81	91	3.10	74
	DCLG	0.08	7	—	0	0.08	2
	RICU total	1.16	—	3.09	—	4.25	—

[1] Projected. *Note:* The Home Office is RICU's host Department and is responsible for all non-staff administration costs.

RICU spend by budget category

Financial year	*Total spend (£m)*	*Administration costs (£m)*	*Proportion of total spend (%)*	*Programme costs (£m)*	*Proportion of total spend (%)*
2008-09	3.17	1.55	49	1.62	51
2009-10	7.41	1.50	20	5.91	80
2010-11[1]	4.25	1.16	27	3.09	73

[1] Projected.

Human Trafficking: EU Law

Fiona Mactaggart: *To ask the Secretary of State for* the Home Department (1) which of the measures in the original text of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking she considered to be contrary to the UK's interest; and if she will make a statement; [49741]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 52WS, on the EU Directive (Human Trafficking), what the main risk associated with the text was which has now been overcome. [49793]

Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt in to the European Directive on Human Trafficking at the outset, but to review its position in line with the revised text. The main risk was that the text could change during the negotiations in ways that could have been unhelpful to the UK's interests. The Government have now reviewed the finalised text and I have written to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees notifying them of our intention to apply to opt in.

A final decision remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of human trafficking have been reported in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how many convictions for human trafficking offences in Northern Ireland there have been in that period. [47839]

Damian Green: The criminal offence of human trafficking is contained with the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004.

The Northern Ireland Organised Crime Task Force annual report shows that 11 potential victims of human trafficking were recovered in 2008-09 and 25 in 2009-10. These reports can be found at

www.octf.gov.uk

Figures for 2010-11 will be contained in the annual report due to be published in June 2011.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre's interrogation of the police national computer shows there have been three convictions for human trafficking in Northern Ireland, two of which were in 2008 and one in 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter form the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) of 17 February 2011 on her constituent Rasam Aliaziz. [50054]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 29 March 2011

Passport Office: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) who gave the instruction to terminate the employment of those employees of Liverpool Passport Office whose employment was terminated on 21 March 2011; [50064]

(2) what discussions she has had with representatives of the Public and Commercial Services Union on the termination of employment of employees at Liverpool Passport Office on 21 March 2011; [50065]

(3) when she was informed of the decision to terminate the employment of those employees of Liverpool Passport Office whose employment ended on 21 March 2011; [50066]

(4) what steps she has taken in the light of the termination of employment of employees at Liverpool Passport Office to determine whether contract errors have been made by the Identity and Passport Service in relation to other offices; [50067]

(5) what steps the Passport Agency took in respect of the 14 employees at its Liverpool Office incorrectly recruited under the IPS Friends and Family scheme between the time at which the mistake was discovered and 21 March 2011; [50098]

(6) when the error in relation to the recruitment of those employees of Liverpool Passport Office whose employment was terminated on 21 March 2011 was discovered. [50112]

Damian Green: The decision to terminate the employment of those Liverpool office staff who had been incorrectly appointed on permanent civil service contracts, was taken by the chief executive following advice from IPS HR and from the Civil Service Commission.

No discussions have taken place between myself and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS). National PCS union representatives were told about the issue on 2 March 2011. IPS HR and local branch representatives from the PCS union met on 16 March 2011 and they were made aware of the position at this meeting.

This is an operational decision for Home Office managers. IPS informed Ministers about the decision to terminate the employment contracts of affected employees in Liverpool Passport Office on 18 March.

The permanent contracts in question were only issued in the Liverpool regional office.

IPS explored a number of options with the Civil Service Commission once the mistake was discovered including replacing the permanent contracts of employment with fixed-term appointment contracts and retrospectively applying exceptions under the Civil Service Order in Council. In the case of 10 employees IPS has been able to award fixed-term contracts for the two-year period from their original start date. The remaining four employees had already been employed by IPS for more than two years. IPS has also met with the staff involved and sincerely apologised for this mistake.

An internal audit of IPS external recruitment at the end of March 2010 discovered the error in relation to the Liverpool Passport Office recruitment scheme conducted during the autumn of 2008. We then set about exploring options to avoid termination.

Prostitution

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategy her Department has to tackle prostitution; and if she will make a statement. [49788]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are currently looking at the approaches taken towards prostitution in different local areas in England and Wales in order to identify effective practice in terms of policing, harm minimisation multi-agency working and schemes to help people leave prostitution. Effective practice guidance for local areas will be published later in the spring.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 949W, on voluntary work and charitable donations, how much her Department spent on implementation of its policy on volunteering in each of the last five years; and how much it expects to allocate for the purpose in each of the next five years. [48613]

Damian Green: The Home Office encourages staff to take up to five days special leave to develop their skills and experience, while giving something back to the community. The small team responsible for this programme also undertake other tasks and it is not possible to disaggregate the costs of their time. Voluntary organisations and representative bodies (eg Volunteering Centre Westminster, Magistrates Association and Victims Support) are invited to give presentations to staff to encourage them to participate. Links to a wide range of volunteering opportunities are also advertised on the departmental intranet. Information about the take up of these opportunities is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has spent between £3,500 and £5,000 per year in each of the last five years with a voluntary sector brokerage service to place Home Office volunteers into appropriate volunteering opportunities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to reinstate the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. [49951]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* The Government have no plans to reinstate the aggregates levy sustainability fund (ALSF). The decision to discontinue the fund was taken as part of the spending review settlement in October 2010 in a very tight spending context where we looked very carefully across all the Department's priorities to identify where we could make best use of available funds. Unfortunately, it was decided that the fund was no longer in a position to continue funding the ALSF programme.

The aggregates levy is a tax on the commercial exploitation of aggregate, administered by HM Revenue and Customs, and is separate from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. As announced at the recent Budget, the rate increase on the aggregates levy has been postponed until 2012-13.

Badgers: Tourism

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the potential effects of a badger cull on tourism revenues in each region. [50327]

Mr Paice: Some concerns have been raised that badger culling might have an impact on tourism in the areas affected by TB. However, we have not seen any clear or credible evidence to support the view that there would be any significant impact.

No decision on badger control has yet been taken. We received a large number of responses to the public consultation, which we are considering carefully. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB Eradication Programme for England as soon as possible.

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Management Board of her Department have had on the designation of Candidate Special Areas of Conservation. [49568]

Richard Benyon: The designation of Candidate Special Areas of Conservation has been discussed from time to time as part of the Board's ongoing review of DEFRA's programmes.

Environment

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to establish a mechanism to measure the Government's commitment to be the greenest administration ever. [48324]

Mr Paice: A number of measures are already in place to help deliver this commitment.

These include reducing carbon emissions from Government offices by 10% in one year, establishing a Green Investment Bank with £3 billion to drive investment in a green economy, introducing a floor price for carbon, and improving energy efficiency through our 'Green Deal' while also helping people and businesses save money. New Greening Government Commitments for Operations and Procurement were announced in February this year as part of a package of measures to mainstream sustainable development across Government, a key mechanism for supporting the delivery of our ambition to be the greenest Government ever. This package also includes enhancing sustainability in policy making, for example through the scrutiny of business plans by the Minister with responsibility for Government policy for their sustainable development credentials.

The Government have made clear their intention to be more transparent and allow people and Parliament to hold Ministers and public services to account; so overall success on this cross-Government commitment will, rightly, be for others to judge.

Environment Protection: Departmental Co-ordination

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which Ministers have attended each of her monthly breakfasts for the designated green Ministers in each Department; [48249]

(2) which Ministers have attended each Green Breakfast meeting hosted by her Department; [49271]

(3) which Ministers attended each of the last three Green Breakfast meetings. [50115]

Mr Paice: The information is as follows:

The first meeting on 1 February 2011 was attended by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the hon. Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), Lord Henley, the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin), the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker), the Minister for Universities and Science, the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Lewes, (Norman Baker), the Minister of State, Department for International Development and the right hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan).

The second meeting on 8 March was attended by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the hon. Member for Newbury, Lord Henley, the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, the right hon. Member for West Dorset the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the hon. Member for Hazel Grove, the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle, the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Lewes, the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien) and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham).

Fisheries

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures the Government is taking to maintain arrangements for supervision of recreational fisheries after the removal of that discrete function from the Environment Agency; and if she will make a statement. [49513]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* There has been no change to the duties on the Environment Agency to 'maintain, improve and develop fisheries for salmon, trout eel, freshwater fish, lamprey and smelt' (Environment Act 1995 as amended by Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009). Nor has there been any change to the guidance issued by Government to the Environment Agency in the interpretation of this duty in contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, i.e. 'in particular: to ensure the conservation and maintain the diversity of freshwater fish, salmon, sea trout and eels (and lampreys and smelt) and to conserve their aquatic environment; to enhance the contribution migratory and freshwater fisheries make to the economy, particularly in remote rural areas and in areas with low levels of income; and to enhance the social value of fishing as a widely available and healthy form of recreation.'

The Environment Agency will continue to work towards ensuring more people from all backgrounds enjoy and appreciate the water environments close to them. It will achieve this through its role as a navigation authority and its work on angling.

Flood Control

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration her Department has given to the recommendation of the Pitt Report that flood defences should be allocated an above-inflation funding settlement. [48323]

Richard Benyon: Expenditure on flood risk management cannot be immune from the over-riding need to reduce the deficit, and to deliver efficiencies across all areas of public spending. DEFRA has committed to spend at least £2.16 billion over four years on flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. This is approximately 8% less than the amount spent by DEFRA over the previous four years. The Department has protected key front-line aspects of the budget such as flood forecasting and warnings, incident response and the risk-based maintenance of existing defences. We also expect to be able to provide improved levels of protection to 145,000 homes by March 2015, even within a reduced budget.

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has reviewed the Environment Agency's flood risk assessment of homes in England; and if she will make a statement. [49819]

Richard Benyon: While DEFRA does not undertake technical or quality reviews of the Environment Agency's national flood risk assessments, departmental representatives do sit on the National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA) programme board with the Environment Agency. They contribute to the programme of works and development of this tool.

The NaFRA model is run on a quarterly basis for selected catchments, and each time it is run revisions are made to the flood risk. DEFRA is kept well informed of these and the Environment Agency and its consultants undertake extensive quality assurance, including requiring all NaFRA model outputs to be reviewed by local staff to ensure that they are a true representation of flood risk. Recently a more robust framework for validation and quantification of uncertainty has also been developed.

Food: Production

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has estimated the total domestic food production capacity of the UK measured in terms of the proportion of the population it would feed. [48364]

Mr Paice: No such calculation has been made. UK agriculture's share of the UK food market will in part reflect its ability to compete in international commodity markets. We are working to support British farming and encourage sustainable food production by helping to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the farming industry.

Horses: Passports

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1218-19W, on horse passports, what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of horses which died in each of the last three years and *(b)* the proportion of such deaths which were not reported to the authority issuing horse passports. [49564]

Mr Paice: There is a legal requirement for a horse's passport to be returned to the passport issuing organisation that issued it upon the death of the animal.

National Equine Database records show the number of horses that have died in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Horses
2008	10, 339
2009	11, 942
2010	13,917

DEFRA does not compile estimates of the number of passports that are not returned to the issuing body upon the death of the animal.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to assist the farming industry in preparing for the ban on battery cages for laying hens. [48349]

Mr Paice: As the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs made clear at February's Agriculture Council, when some EU member states sought more time to comply with the ban on conventional cages, any delay in implementing the ban would be unfair to all the egg producers in the UK who have made significant investments to convert out of battery cages ahead of the European deadline. It would be unjust for them to have to compete with producers from other European countries which have not converted.

The UK has consistently called for the ban to be implemented in 2012 with strict enforcement by the EU.

We welcome the efforts the UK laying hen industry has made to comply with the ban and we will continue to work closely with the Commission, other member states and the industry to find a practical enforcement solution.

Seas and Oceans: Radiation

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the safety of radiation levels of seawater in which the UK fishing fleet fish; and if she will make a statement. [50254]

Richard Benyon: There is a substantial programme of environmental monitoring for radioactivity in UK waters which has been established for a number of years. The results of this programme, together with implications for human health and environmental health are published annually in the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report series. These reports confirm that the environment and man are adequately protected, and that doses of radioactivity received by people and wildlife continue to be well within regulatory limits. The uncertainty in dose estimations is relatively low.

For the wider north-east Atlantic, the UK works with other European states within the OSPAR convention (for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic) to ensure that inputs and levels of radioactivity are reduced. OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2010 assessment for the north-east Atlantic concludes that environmental concentrations and exposure of humans and biota to monitored radionuclides are low.

In the particular case of Japan, there are currently no UK fishing vessels operating in Japanese Waters or waters adjacent to it. The Food Standards Agency has implemented Commission Regulation (EU) No. 297/2011 which applies EU-wide controls to prevent the import of food and feed which may be contaminated, including fish and fishery products, from Japan.

Water Charges: Billing

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much additional funding will be available to reduce water bills in the South West region in each of the next four financial years; and what her estimate is of the average reduction in affected household bills in each of those financial years. [49679]

Richard Benyon: The Government will consult shortly on proposals to address water affordability across England, including the south-west. This will include reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the approach to company social tariffs and options for additional Government spending to provide further support.

We will carefully consider how to strike the right balance between using additional Government spending to assist households in the south-west, and assisting households with water affordability problems both inside and outside the south-west.

Water: Prices

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when she plans to publish her consultation document on proposals to address water affordability in the south-west; [50255]

(2) what additional funds will be made available to address water affordability in the south-west; [50286]

(3) what estimate she has made of the likely change in level of water charges for the average household in the south-west as a result of implementation of the Government's Budget proposals on water bills. [50287]

Richard Benyon: The Government will consult shortly on proposals to address water affordability across England, including the south-west. This will include reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the approach to company social tariffs and options for additional government spending to provide further support.

We will carefully consider how to strike the right balance between using additional government spending to assist all households in the south-west and assisting households with water affordability problems both inside and outside the south-west.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Manpower

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* pay grade is of each civil servant appointed to his Department since 11 May 2010. [49713]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government headcount numbers have fallen from 2,108 in May 2010 to 2,000 in February 2011, a reduction of 108 staff, 5% of headcount.

This is a net figure after the residual transfer of 69 staff from the Government office for London into the Department. In the same period, numbers of Department for Communities and Local Government employees in the Government office network fell by 207 to 324 as at February 2011.

The net figure also includes approximately 30 staff who have returned to the Department from unpaid leave, loans and secondments.

Staffing numbers in DCLG will fall further by around 700 when the selection and restructuring process is completed in 2012. This affects staff at all levels.

I have interpreted 'appointed' to mean staff newly recruited to the civil service and Department on either a permanent or fixed-term contract. Since 11 May 2010, 39 civil servants have been appointed to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

A breakdown of their job titles and pay grade bands as follows:

1 x Administrative Officer.(National): £19,935 to £22,194
3 x Administrative Officer (London): £23,218 to £25,847
2 x Executive Officer (London): £24,951 to £30,162
1 x Higher Executive Officer (London): £28,668 to £34,665
2 x Legal Trainee (HEO equivalent): £25,709
2 x Policy Advisor (HEO equivalent): £28,668 to £34,665
17 x Fast Streamer (HEO equivalent): £27,000 to £35,000
2 x Senior Executive Officer Audit (London): £37,732 to £45,734
3 x Senior Planning Officer (SEO equivalent): £37,739 to £45,734
2 x Grade 7 (Legal): £44,494 to £57,110
1 x Grade 6 (London): £54,828 to £70,375
1 x Permanent Secretary: £141,800 to £277,300
2 x Special Advisers: £52,215 to £69,266.

A total freeze on recruitment is now in place with the exception of a handful of very specialist posts that could not be filled internally.

Housing: Energy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department had with the Department of Energy and Climate Change prior to the announcement that new homes will not be required to be zero carbon. [50283]

Grant Shapps: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon. What we are not going to do is to try to build in how many electrical appliances such as plasma TVs a homeowner may have. However, these appliances are already covered by other arrangements such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, so this will have no impact on the Government's carbon reduction strategy. What this will do is minimise costs to house builders, so protecting the viability and affordability of new housing, and helping house builders deliver the new homes the country needs.

Policy to deliver Zero Carbon Homes from 2016 has been subject to collective consideration and agreement between interested Departments—including the Department of Energy and Climate Change—as is the case with all Government policy.

Housing: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to promote its Home on the Farm scheme. [50053]

Andrew Stunell: I would like to take this opportunity to thank my hon. Friend as the originator of this scheme, which provides a welcome opportunity for farmers and local authorities to work together to help to address the problems of rural affordable housing. I announced on 18 October that we are promoting the "Home on the Farm" scheme which encourages both parties to work together to secure the conversion of redundant and underused farm buildings to deliver affordable homes for local people. Officials have discussed the scheme with interested partners, such as the National Farmers Union and English Heritage, and we will continue to work with partners to promote the scheme.

Local Government: Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the formula grant to each local authority in absolute cash terms has been in each year since 2006-07. [44023]

Robert Neill: A table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the amount of formula grant received by each authority for the financial years 2006-07 to 2011-12. In addition, the provisional 2012-13 allocations have been provided.

Promotional Merchandise

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on promotional merchandise between 2006 to May 2010; how many of each item of promotional merchandise were ordered; and how each such item was branded. [43858]

Robert Neill: The Department has historically purchased promotional items through the Central Office of Information (COI). COI records show the following DCLG spend through the COI merchandising framework over the last two years:

				£
Date	*Item*	*Cost*	*VAT*	*Total*
9 January 2009	100,000 x fridge magnets @ GBP 0.07	7,000.00	1,050.00	8,050.00
9 January2009	100,000 x cornstarch bags @ GBP 0.15	15,000.00	2,250.00	17,250.00
9 January 2009	100,000 x flexible PVC fridge magnets @ GBP 0.065	6,500.00	975.00	7,475.00

				£
Date	*Item*	*Cost*	*VAT*	*Total*
22 January 2009	100,000 x Fire Kills cornstarch bags @ GBP 0.16	16,000.00	2,400.00	18,400.00
18 February 2009	100,000 x Fire Kills pens @ GBP 0.14	14,000.00	2,100.00	16,100.00
27 February 2009	200,000 x fridge magnets with Fire Kills artwork @ GBP 0.065	13,000.00	1,950.00	14,950.00
25 March 2009	250 x 128mb twister USBs 40MB data upload @ GBP 2.65 each	662.50	99.38	761.88
11 May 2009	30 x bella ladies T-shirts in Red with Fire Kills logo @ GBP 9.45 each	283.50	0.00	283.50
29 May 2009	2,000 x Beer mats printed both sides with Fire Kills logo @ GBP 0.11	220.00	0.00	220.00
29 July 2009	200,000 x Fire Kills pens @ GBP 0.13 each	26,000.00	3,900.00	29,900.00
29 July 2009	200,000 x Fire Kills magnets @ GBP 0.065 each	13,000.00	1,950.00	14,950.00
24 August 2009	3,000 x Star ball pens with three-colour RPTS print @ GBP 0.45 per unit	1,350.00	202.50	1,552.50
4 September 2009	8,000 x magnetic word games printed with Plan Your Great Escape artwork @ GBP 0.42 each	3,360.00	504.00	3,864.00
4 September 2009	4,000 x cotton shoppers printed with Plan Your Great Escape artwork @ GBP 0.78 each	3,120.00	468.00	3,588.00
13 October 2009	10,000 x non-woven, eco friendly bags with one colour print @ GBP 0.70 each	7,000.00	1,050.00	8,050.00
2009 total		126,496.00	18,898.88	145,394.88
1 March 2010	118,000 x 38mm button badges, printed with Extraordinary/I Can Save Lives designs	6,000.00	1,050.00	7,050.00
1 March 2010	50,000 x PVC bespoke shape key rings with Extraordinary design @ GBP 0.28 per unit	14,000.00	2,450.00	16,450.00
16 March 2010	200 x cotton shoppers, printed with three-colour logo to one side only @ GBP 1.35 per unit	270.00	47.25	317.25
2010 total		20,270.00	3,547.25	23,817.25

A full breakdown for previous years is not available. However, the total spend for each year via the COI merchandising framework was as follows:

	£
2006	44,262
2007	56,530.70
2008	46,911.50

No promotional items have been purchased since the formation of the new administration in May 2010. The COI merchandising framework is no longer in operation.

Public Expenditure

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies and individuals received funding from Government Offices for the Regions under his Department's *(a)* community resilience and *(b)* Preventing Violent Extremism funding streams in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and what the (A) purpose and (B) monetary value of the payment was in each case. [43878]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not operate a separate funding stream for Community Resilience.

The Government offices have had access to a fund of £750,000 per annum between 2008 and 2011 to build their capacity to support Prevent work in their regions. This money was provided to them from the Prevent division's programme funds.

Owing to the quantity of data involved, details regarding the bodies and individuals that received funding from the Government offices for the regions under the Preventing Violent Extremism funding stream have been placed in the Library of the House.

Social Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on monitoring the quality of independent social care providers. [49786]

Robert Neill: Ministers in both Departments have regular discussions on matters of mutual interest, including social care.

Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism he proposes to use to introduce a presumption of sustainable development in the local planning system. [49680]

Greg Clark: The Government intend to introduce a presumption in favour of sustainable development through national planning policy. The presumption will be a key feature of the National Planning Policy Framework, a full draft of which will be published for consultation in the summer.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income will accrue to the Exchequer from the auction of permits under the Aviation EU Emissions Trading Scheme in each of the next five years. [50060]

Justine Greening: The Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) now publishes revenue forecasts independently. The OBR's revenue forecast for all Emissions Trading Scheme receipts were set out in Table C3 of the Budget 2011 document. Aviation receipts are not separately identified in the OBR's forecast.

Table C3: EU ETS auction receipts

	£ billion
2011-12	0.3
2012-13	0.7
2013-14	2.0
2014-15	2.1
2015-16	22

Corporation Tax

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer in tax forgone of the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax to 26 per cent. in the period from 1 April 2011 to 1 January 2012. [49696]

Mr Gauke: The estimated impact on the Exchequer in tax foregone, of changes to the main rate of corporation tax as announced at Budget 2011, are set out in the following Budget 2011 document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Counterfeit Manufacturing: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the quantity of counterfeit branded spirits sold in the UK in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of that quantity which *(a)* is manufactured within the UK and *(b)* enters the UK as imported or contraband alcohol and is subsequently re-bottled for sale as branded goods. [49466]

Justine Greening: HMRC does produce estimates of the volumes of illicit alcohol consumed in the UK and the revenue losses arising from that. However, the data available do not enable these estimates to be broken down by quantities of genuine and counterfeit product. The latest estimate for illicit spirits (relating to the year 2008-09) was published on the HMRC website on 16 September 2010, in the document "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010". This document can be accessed online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

Cycle to Work Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of his Department are participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. [49408]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury encourages all its employees to choose environmentally friendly forms of transport to and from work in both its London and Norwich offices, and provides free secure storage and changing facilities for those who choose to do so. 29 employees participated in the Department's last formal Cycle to Work Scheme which closed in 2009. The scheme for 2011 is currently being finalised.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees on temporary contracts *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which he is responsible had in each of the last five years. [49601]

Justine Greening: The number of employees on temporary contracts within HM Treasury, the UK Debt Management Office and the Asset Protection Agency (APA) for each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
HM Treasury	80	74	74	89	93
Debt Management Office	2	5	6	10	10
Asset Protection Agency	0	0	0	0	19

Note:
The APA was established in 2009, and its costs are recharged in full to the Royal Bank of Scotland

Equitable Life

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman's report on Equitable Life. [49642]

Mr Hoban: The Government have accepted all the parliamentary ombudsman's recommendations in full. The Government's ambition is to start making payments in the middle of this year.

The Government will provide details of the scheme to Parliament in the spring.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on granting the Green Investment Bank power to raise capital through borrowing during the comprehensive spending review period; [49203]

(2) whether he has plans to introduce *(a)* bonds and *(b)* individual savings accounts designed for small investors to invest capital in (i) environmental industries and (ii) the Green Investment Bank. [49763]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Government are undertaking analysis into how investment in green industries can be increased.

The Chancellor announced in the Budget that the Government will enable the Green Investment Bank to have borrowing powers from 2015-16 and once the target for debt to be falling as a percentage of GDP has been met.

Inheritance Tax

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether individuals who donate their homes to charitable bodies but continue to reside within them as tenants will be eligible for the reduction in the rate of inheritance tax on their estates payable on their death should the value of such donations exceed 10 per cent. of the value of their estates. [49681]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his recent Budget that the rate of inheritance tax would be reduced for those estates leaving 10% or more to charity. The Government will be consulting on the detail of the policy and how the policy will be implemented to ensure that charities get the maximum benefit and it is straightforward for taxpayers.

Landfill Communities Fund

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of projects funded by the Landfill Communities Fund; what plans he has for the future of the fund; and if he will make a statement. [49682]

Justine Greening: The performance of Landfill Communities Fund projects is assured by an independent regulator, ENTRUST, using key performance indicators that are agreed in formal terms of approval set by HMRC.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the valuable work supported by the Landfill Communities Fund continues to flourish. Therefore, in the Budget, the value of the fund in 2011-12 was increased in line with inflation to £78.1 million.

To improve the efficiency of the fund in getting contributions into communities as quickly as possible, the Government have challenged environmental bodies to reduce the level of unspent funds that they hold.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 17 September 2010 on behalf of his constituent Ms Claire Harding on the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign. [49688]

Justine Greening: I wrote to the hon. Member on 30 March.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Pre-Budget Report 2009, paragraph 5.45, whether the age at which pensioner benefits can be received will increase in line with his proposed increase in the state pension age. [49544]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The age at which pensioner benefits, such as pension credit and winter fuel payments, can be received is already set to increase in line with the female state pension age.

This also includes the age of eligibility for the bus pass although local authorities, such as Merseytravel, which provides the Merseyside pass, can under certain circumstances provide discretionary travel schemes.

Changes to the state pension age have not yet been reflected in the arrangements for prescription charge exemption and people are still eligible at age 60.

Taxation: Business

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Wages Inspectorate visits have been made to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large companies in each of the last six months. [48389]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* HMRC does not capture information on national minimum wage (NMW) cases on the basis of whether the company is small, medium or large.

HMRC can provide information on the number of visits made to employers based on the number of workers shown in the following table:

Workers	*Visits carried out between September 2010 and February 2011*
1-10	437
11-100	332
101 +	115
Not yet recorded	149
Total	1,033

Taxation: Oil and Gas

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives of the oil and gas industry to discuss the taxation arrangements for oil and gas production. [49952]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sector as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* employment in Scotland and *(b)* investment in new oil production of his changes to taxation of the oil and gas industries. [49953]

Justine Greening: Recognising the importance of continued investment in the North sea, the Government will consider with the industry the case for introducing a new category of qualifying for field allowance.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any taper will apply to the supplementary charge on oil and gas profits if the price per barrel is between $75 and $100. [49956]

Justine Greening: As announced at Budget 2011, if the oil price falls below a set trigger price on a sustained basis, the Government will reduce the supplementary charge on a staged and affordable basis while prices remain low. The Government believe that a trigger price of $75 per barrel would be appropriate, but will set a final level and mechanism after seeking the views of oil and gas companies and motoring groups.

Urenco

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contingency plans he has made should the sale of the UK shareholding in Urenco not realise the sum identified as necessary to fund the Green Investment Bank. [49613]

Justine Greening: The Government are considering a range of possible asset sales to fund the Green Investment Bank. To give information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales would prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide the £2 billion target.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Green Investment Bank

19. **Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish a business plan for the Green Investment Bank. [49989]

Vince Cable: We will capitalise—with equity finance—the Green Investment Bank (GIB) with £2 billion on top of £1 billion of departmental funding already announced. The bank will be able to engage in borrowing when public finances are healthier. We intend to announce more details, including a business plan, in May.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the amount of investment in green infrastructure that the Green Investment Bank will be generating in the comprehensive spending review period. [50554]

Mr Prisk: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2011 Budget that the Green Investment Bank will be capitalised with £3 billion during this Parliament.

We estimate that this capital could leverage up to £15 billion for green infrastructure by 2014-15.

Apprentices: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth apprenticeships were offered in the (i) public and (ii) private sector in London in each of the last five years. [49866]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 29 March 2011]*: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts in England by age for 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available. Information on the number of apprenticeships offered in the public and private sector is not available.

Apprenticeship programme starts by age, 2005/05 to 2009/10

Age	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Under 19	99,500	105,600	107,600	99,400	116,800
19+	75,500	78,800	117,200	140,600	162,900
Total	175,000	184,400	224,800	239,900	279,700

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Arms Trade: Exports

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1173W, on arms trade: exports, for which countries arms export licences have been revoked as a result of his Department's review of export licences announced on 18 February 2011 since 15.00 on 3 March 2011; how many *(a)* individual and *(b)* open licences were revoked in respect of each country; and what the date of revocation was in each case. [49524]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

(a) For Standard Individual Export Licences (SIELs) one licence was revoked for Libya on 4 March;

(b) For Open Individual Export Licences (OIELs) one licence with multiple destinations was amended on 4 March, revoking exports to the Country of Bahrain; and two licences with multiple destinations were amended on 9 March, both of which revoked exports to the Country of Bahrain.

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the Arts and Humanities Research Council on funding research into the Big Society; what assessment he has made of the compatibility of his proposals with the Haldane Principle; and if he will make a statement. [50063]

Mr Willetts: The Haldane Principle means that decisions on individual research proposals are taken by researchers themselves through peer review. A statement of the Principle was published alongside the science and research funding allocations on 20 December 2010:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/wmstext/101220m0001.htm

Every Government will have some key national strategic priorities. The research base has an important role to play in addressing such priorities and the research councils, with the support of independent advice, have proposed research programmes to tackle them. It is also appropriate for Ministers to ask research councils to consider how best they can contribute to these priorities without crowding out other areas of their missions. But it is for the research councils to decide on the specific projects and people to fund within these priorities, free from ministerial interference.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) Delivery Plan published in December 2010 was agreed in discussion with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. This sets out their strategic research priority areas. AHRC has been working since 2008, with four other research councils, on the Connected Communities Research Programme which has been developed through consultation with researchers. It has not been changed or modified in any way because of any intervention from Ministers: there has been none. At the core of this programme is research to understand the changing nature of communities in their historical and cultural contexts, and the value of communities in sustaining and enhancing our quality of life. These issues are also relevant to debates about the 'Big Society'. The AHRC has made clear their position in a statement published on 28 March:

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/News/Latest/Pages/Observerarticle.aspx

Business

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department is making on achieving the Government's aim of making the UK the best place in the world to start a business; what recent discussions he has had with the Confederation of British Industry on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [50309]

Mr Prisk: The UK is ranked as the 4th easiest economy out of 183 economies in the world in which to do business, according to the World Bank benchmarks published in November 2010, confirming our place as the best country in the G8 and Europe to do business. But there is no room for complacency and since last May we have introduced a number of measures to help achieve our aim of making the UK the best place in the world to start a business. These include:

The Budget announced a general moratorium from all new domestic regulations for three years for businesses of less than 10 employees and for new start-ups.

The Budget also introduced 21 new Enterprise Zones offering a package of benefits including a 100% business rate discount worth up to £275,000 over a five year period.

From 6 April, Companies House will launch a new web incorporation service which will enable people to set up a simple company within a few hours for just £18-an important step towards the Government's aim of one-click registration.

Alongside the launch of StartUp Britain, the ground-breaking response from the private sector to the Government's call for an enterprise-led recovery, we announced last week a package of announcements to help inspire, support and grow new businesses in the UK:

support for every school to run its own business through the Enterprise Champions Programme.

a major roll-out of Tenner Tycoon, the successful competition owned and run by the Peter Jones Foundation which gives young people the opportunity to take forward their business ideas.

the creation of enterprise societies in every university and most further education colleges to develop students with the ambition and skills for enterprise.

We have announced we will be changing the way we provide information, guidance and support to make it easier to start a business, revamping the www.businesslink.gov.uk website and introducing a national contact centre. In October we will be launching a new improved, and personalised, online support package for anyone who wants to start up in business. The Start-Up Hub will provide a range of tools and checklists, which have been tested by business customers and includes key elements of starting up such as business planning, as well as tax calculators and other help. It will be easy to access online information and guidance including simple 'no nonsense guides' to starting up in a variety of formats, and online training such as video workshops and case studies.

We have announced that we will continue the Enterprise Finance Guarantee until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 SMEs next year, and subject to demand, over £2 billion in total over the next four years, helping to ensure businesses can access the finance they need.

We are providing targeted support for specific groups:

supporting the Royal British Legion's 'Be the Boss' scheme, which provides loans, grants and advice to UK service leavers to help them fund, plan and grow their own businesses.

working with the Department for Work and Pensions to deliver a tailored package of measures, including an expansion in the planned New Enterprise Allowance, to help the unemployed become self employed.

Working with mentoring providers to understand and address the barriers to enterprise for all groups, including women, former service personnel and Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

Working with social landlords to remove red tape and encourage more tenants to start up businesses.

From 6 April, a new prospective entrepreneur visa will be available and there will be changes to the entrepreneurs' visa to encourage more wealth and job creators to come to the UK.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is one of this Department's key corporate stakeholders, and Ministers and officials meet regularly with their CBI counterparts. I last met with John Cridland, the CBI's Director General, in early March, where we discussed many aspects of policy aimed at making the UK the best place in the world to start a business. These included planning, regulation and employment law. We also spoke on the afternoon of Budget day. The CBI welcomed the Budget overall and the accompanying growth review, particularly welcoming the measures on corporation tax, entrepreneurs' taxation, regulation, fuel duty and manufacturing.

Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* each (i) agency and (ii) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years. [47425]

Mr Davey: Compensation payments are disclosed annually in the Department's published accounts under the heading of special payments. Payments above £250,000 are detailed separately. Compensation payments made to members of the public for errors made are not recorded separately and the figures could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, Skills Funding Agency and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 16 March 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how much the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by the Agency in each of the last five years.

Please be advised that the Agency has no record of any compensation payments made to members of the public recorded in the ledgers of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the predecessor to the Skills Funding Agency—up to 31 March 2010, nor in the ledgers of the Skills Funding Agency, the successor organisation to the LSC, from 1 April 2010 to date.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 24 March 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 14 March 2011, UIN 47425 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

As a Government department Companies House does not pay compensation. However; we will make payments for costs, known as ex gratia payments, where the costs are incurred as a direct result of an error made by Companies House. The amount of ex gratia payments for each of the last five years is as follows:

	Amount (£)
2006/07	12,897
2007/08	23,860
2008/09	17,724
2009/10	34, 845
2010/11	65,576
Total	154,902

The figures for 2010/11 are for the year to date.

Letter from John Alty, dated 15 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 14th March 2011 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office generally does not pay compensation. Where the Office has not provided a service to the standard we and our customers expect an ex-gratia payment may be made. This generally is a refund of fees paid but can be more, to cover costs, in exceptional circumstances. The figures for the last five years are:

	£
2006-07	6,083
2007-08	14,322
2008-09	3,737
2009-10	8,231
2010-11 (Feb)	2,314

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 22 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 14 March 2011 reference 2010/4536 to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how much his Department and its predecessors and each (a) agency and (b) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years.

The National Measurement Office has not spent any money on compensation payments to members of the public for errors in any of the last five years.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 28 March 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much his Department and its predecessors and each (a) agency and (b) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible spent on compensation payments to members of the public for errors made by such bodies in each of the last five years.

The Insolvency Service, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, does not hold a breakdown of amounts paid for compensation to members of the public for errors. Where an official receiver acting as trustee or liquidator has not taken action as required by insolvency legislation in relation to an insolvency case, The Service may be liable to make a fruitless payment. Provisions for such payments are included in the notes to The Service's Accounts published annually and laid in Parliament. The Service's Annual Report and Accounts also includes any payments in respect of complaints that are upheld by the independent Adjudicator of complaints.

Enterprise Zones: Wales

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the use of the enterprise zone model in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [50121]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited Wales on Tuesday 29 March when the issue of enterprise zones was discussed at length with key representatives of the Welsh business sector.

In addition, the Government wrote to the Welsh Assembly Government—as well as the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive—in advance of the Budget, setting out their commitment to work with the devolved Administrations to establish enterprise zones if they so wish. The Government remain ready to work with them on this and have made funding available in the Budget to support enterprise zones in the devolved Administrations through the Barnett formula.

Land: Bristol

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for ownership of the land on which the SPark Bristol and Bath Science Park is located other than the National Corporate Centre Site following the closure of the South West Regional Development Agency. [50149]

Mr Prisk: The South West of England Development Agency's detailed assets and liabilities plan is currently being scrutinised by Government. The Government expect information to be available in due course, once in principle decisions have been made on appropriate methods of disposal for particular types of assets. The Government anticipate the systematic disposal of the South West of England Development Agency's assets and liabilities will begin shortly.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the population of England is covered by local enterprise partnerships; what plans there are to extend coverage; and if he will make a statement. [50303]

Mr Prisk: To date, 32 partnerships have been approved. These represent:

1.8 million or 90% of all businesses (active enterprises) in England;

21 million employees (employee jobs figures) or 91% of all employees in England and;

A population of 47 million or 90% of England's population.

We welcome further proposals for areas not yet covered by partnerships and continue to work with them at a speed that is appropriate for them.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role his Department has set for local enterprise partnerships in promoting *(a)* the automotive industry, *(b)* low-carbon technologies, including offshore wind farms and *(c)* biotechnology and the life sciences in their areas. [50324]

Mr Prisk: It is for local enterprise partnerships to decide their priorities, and where they have a particular strength in a sector in their locality such as in automotive, low carbon or life sciences they may well wish to promote that sector. The Government have already made clear that they will share information and work with partnerships on such issues if they would find that helpful.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 14 December 2010 on behalf of the Devon Education Business Partnership regarding work experience placements. [49690]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

The Minister of State for Schools, my hon. Friend the Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb), replied to my hon. Friend on 29 March 2011.

New Businesses: Scotland

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding will be allocated to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow North West constituency and *(c)* Glasgow city under the StartUp Britain initiative. [50052]

Mr Prisk: StartUp Britain does not receive Government funding.

It is an initiative for business, led and funded by business.

Northern Way: Expenditure

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Northern Way project spent; and what evaluation he has made of the project's performance in meeting its objectives. [49744]

Mr Prisk: The Northern Way formed in 2004 and is a partnership between One North East, Yorkshire Forward and Northwest Development Agency. Its forecast total spend is £126 million covering two phases, 2004-08 (£100 million) and 2008-11 (£26 million).

An evaluation of the first phase was published in April 2009. An evaluation of the second phase was initiated in March 2009. An interim report was published in June 2010 and the final report will be issued in April 2011. The reports can be found at:

http://www.thenorthernway.co.uk/page.asp?id=812

The partnership will formally close on 31 March 2011.

Re-Export Control Bill [HL] 2010-11

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on referring the Re-Export Control Bill [Lords] to a Second Reading Committee; what his policy is on such references; and if he will make a statement. [50308]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) received a letter from my hon. Friend the Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 4 March on this issue.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills expressed the Government's reservations about the Re-Export Controls Bill during its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 3 December. The Government intend to set out its position on the Bill during Second Reading in the House of Commons, which is currently scheduled for 13 May.

Regional Growth Fund: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications to the Regional Growth Fund have been received from organisations based in Poole constituency. [50540]

Mr Prisk: Four hundred and sixty-four bids to the value of £2.78 billion have been received in Round 1 of Regional Growth Fund (RGF). No bids have come directly from the Poole area.

Service Industries: Minimum Wage

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the operation of the national minimum wage in the hospitality industry. [49978]

Mr Davey: I met with the hon. Member for Linlithgow and East Falkirk on 21 March 2011 to discuss national minimum wage enforcement in the hospitality industry. I am considering the issues raised at this meeting and shall be writing to the hon. Member shortly.

Small Businesses: Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to employ staff; and if he will make a statement. [50307]

Mr Prisk: The Government have announced plans to promote employment by reducing the cost of hiring and retaining staff.

We raised the threshold for employer NICs, increasing the number of employees for whom employers pay no contributions, and introduced a national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday scheme.

We have also made good progress on our Parliament-long review of employment laws—including proposed reforms to the employment tribunals system, which should make it easier and more attractive to take people on.

Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that all student loans eligible for repayment are repaid in full following implementation of the increased maximum chargeable amount in tuition fees. [49824]

Mr Willetts: Borrowers who remain in the UK and work here will have their loans recovered through the UK tax system.

For those borrowers who move abroad, whether temporarily or because they live in another country, the Student Loans Company (SLC) has established repayment arrangements and will ask for information about earnings and give the borrower a monthly repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan.

The progressive system of student loans to be introduced in the 2012/13 academic year links repayments to earnings, with the effect that high earners will repay the full cost, or more, of their tuition.

The £21,000 income threshold will offer protection to those who do not go on to earn high wages or have periods out of employment.

After 30 years all former students will have any outstanding balance written off. Under this system, around a quarter of former students with the lowest lifetime earnings will repay less overall than former students under the current system do now.

Tobacco: Sales

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Reducing Regulation Committee has discussed proposals for the future display of tobacco products in shops. [49459]

Mr Prisk: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committee, including items on the agenda, is generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal Government discussion.

WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the retention of the UK's role of hosting a WHO collaborating centre as part of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network. [50256]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research, including research relating to influenza. The MRC is a non-departmental public body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Influenza Centre at the MRC National Institute for Medical Research is one of five WHO Collaborating Centres for Reference and Research on Influenza. MRC support for the centre is subject to scientific peer review and is assessed every five years by MRC as part of their ongoing programme of review for MRC research units and institutes. This assessment takes account of scientific expertise, links with other organisations nationally and internationally including WHO, the Health Protection Agency, the (US) Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

The MRC is currently conducting the five-yearly review of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), and decisions on support for the centre for the coming five years will be taken as part of this review. The MRC expects to complete the institute review during 2011-12.

In keeping with the Haldane Principle, prioritisation of an individual Research Council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers.

EDUCATION

Academies

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what process he has put in place by which an independent school may become an academy. [45633]

Mr Gibb: An independent school wanting to become an Academy should follow the Free School application process, which has been open to them since its launch in June.

Applications from independent schools are considered alongside applications for new schools. All applications must meet minimum criteria. In order to ensure only the best independent schools are considered for the Free Schools programme, independent school applicants must meet additional criteria, set out on our website at:

www.education.gov.uk/freeschools

The minimum criteria that independent schools must meet in order to be considered are:

The latest inspection judgment on the school should be either good or better;

There should be no significant outstanding issues on compliance with independent schools standards; and

The existing Trust has a good track record of managing their accounts.

The Department will also take into account a range of contextual factors to make a judgment on whether the school will provide value for money and high quality places.

Apprentices: Finance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on which dates Ministers in his Department have made announcements on *(a)* the creation of apprenticeship places and *(b)* funding to be allocated to apprenticeships since May 2010. [40581]

Mr Hayes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 14 February, 2011, *Official Report*, columns 562-3W which I answered as Minister with responsibility for apprenticeships in both the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Children: Carers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds of the number and proportion of children who are carers in each *(a)* region and *(b)* socio-economic group. [40326]

Tim Loughton: Precise local and national data on the number and proportion of children who are carers in each region of the UK and socio-economic group are not held centrally. However the 2001 Census estimates that there are approximately 175,000 children in the UK aged 17 or under offering some care to a family member, neighbour or friend. More up to date census data will be available later in the year.

Departmental Expenditure: Film Production

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on film production, including the filming of speeches, since May 2010. [35829]

Tim Loughton: Since May 2010 the Department has spent £4,565.00 on film production.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [42385]

Tim Loughton: As at March 2011, the number of staff employed by the Department for Education is 2,605 or 2,484.4 full-time equivalent (FTE).

Similar headcount information (from the latest data available in March 2011) for the Department's arm's length bodies is set out in the following table:

Name	*Organisation*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	Non-departmental public body (NDPB)	9	9
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	NDPB	1,997	1,680.0
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	NDPB	164	197.0
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)	Corporation	175	218.8
National College (NC)	NDPB	326	293.9
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)	NDPB	163	160.0
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	Non-ministerial Government Department	1,615	1,566.1
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	NDPB	168	162.3
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	NDPB	363	360.0
School Food Trust (SFT)	NDPB[1]	72	70.8
Training and Development Agency (TDA)	NDPB[2]	311	308.0
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	NDPB	534	520.6
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	NDPB	27	27
Total	—	5,934	5,573.5

[1] Until end March 2011 [2] Executive agency from 1 April 2012

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1034-35W, on departmental telephone services, what steps are being taken within the specification outlined to facilitate the qualification of small voluntary sector organisations under the terms for contracted services; and if he will make a statement. [49641]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* The Home Office in liaison with OGC and other Government Departments has developed the good practice guidance on procuring services from the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The primary focus of the guidance is to improve the participation of the VCS in public service contracts but it is also highly relevant to procurement relationships with small to medium enterprises and black and minority ethnic enterprises.

The Department for Education (DfE) fully supports the use of the good practice guidance and recognises that the voluntary and community sector can make a significant contribution to the delivery of our policies. The Department's procurement policy requires that all procurement must be based on value for money (VFM), however, VFM and supplier diversity are not in opposition to each other and public procurement is generally more effective if it is open to ideas from all potential supply markets. The guidance is not about giving preferential treatment to VCS organisations; rather, it is about opening up opportunities and building effective relationships. We are also complying with the actions suggested by ERG and BIS—Growth Review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_growth.pdf

to help encourage SMEs and VCS's, e.g. reducing use of Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) for sub-threshold procurements and meeting the Governments transparency requirements.

To support the transparency agenda, all DfE tenders and contracts over £10,000 are advertised on the Contracts Finder website which provides access and guidance to public sector contracting. Contracts Finder is a free new service for businesses, Government buyers and the public. This service comes from Government under their transparency commitment, and you can find live contract opportunities, tender documentation, contract awards and contract documents.

Finance

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department allocated to local authorities in Greater Manchester for capital expenditure *(a)* in 2010-11 and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [49958]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* The following table sets out capital support for schools in the Greater Manchester area from 2005-06 to 2010-11 (provisional):

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (provisional)*
Bolton	13.0	17.5	22.4	[illegible]	35.7	39.4
Bury	8.0	10.7	14.5	12.0	[illegible]	16.7
Manchester	83.5	59.7	124.3	83.3	115.4	153.9
Oldham	17.2	13.2	13.5	14.0	21.5	40.5
Rochdale	10.0	10.3	11.4	13.0	31.7	44.2

£ million

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (provisional)
Salford	12.5	13.5	21.1	11.9	20.5	21.1
Stockport	14.8	12.3	13.0	13.1	24.7	15.4
Tameside	14.2	12.7	18.3	20.6	44.5	20.6
Trafford	11.0	10.2	18.9	23.3	18.9	25.6
Wigan	14.0	16.8	24.5	38.3	31.3	20.1
Total Greater Manchester	198.2	176.9	281.9	243.8	360.8	397.5

The figures in the table include capital grant and supported borrowing allocations, but exclude PFI credits.

Flexible Working: Parental Leave

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effect on early childhood development of *(a)* flexible working and *(b)* maternity and paternity leave. [48488]

Sarah Teather: The Department has made no explicit assessment of the direct effect on early childhood development of flexible working and maternity and paternity leave.

However, there are studies which the Department has commissioned, funded or is aware of which look explicitly at the effect of the home learning environment and parental involvement on childhood development.

The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) Project, after controlling for parents' occupations and education, aspects of the home learning environment were found to have a significant impact on children's cognitive development both at age 3 years plus and again at school entry. The frequency with which the child plays with letters/numbers at home was linked with attainment in all measures. Parents' drawing children's attention to sounds and letters was linked to literacy skills, early number skills and non-verbal attainment.

The final report from EPPE is available here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00924-2008

'The National Literacy Trust Face to Face' research project, October 2010, was commissioned to identify key messages for parents and carers in relation to communicating with babies and young children and examined the most effective ways to promote these messages. The review found that there is general agreement that infants are predisposed to communicate, reciprocate and connect with other people. Key areas were identified in relation to the aspects of parenting that matter in relation to communicating with babies. More information on the study and the key findings can be found at:

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0000/6771/F2F_management_summary.pdf

'The Impact of Parental Involvement on Children's Education', DCSF 2008, provides a summary of some of the research evidence on the impact of parental involvement on children's education, the stages at which it is know to have an impact, and the types of activities which are influential. Overall, research has consistently shown that parental involvement in children's education does make a positive difference to pupils' achievement, as follows:

Parental involvement with children from an early age has been found to equate with better outcomes; particularly in terms of cognitive development. (Sylva et al (2004) Effective pre-School Education. Final report. DFES.)

Evidence indicates that a relationship exists between parental involvement and achievement, and that this continues to have a significant effect into adolescence and even adulthood, even when the background factors such as class and family size have been taken into account. (Desforges et al (2003) 'The Impact of Parental involvement, Parental Support and Family Education on Pupil Achievement and Adjustment: A Literature Review'. DCSF).

Evidence suggests that the quality and content of fathers' involvement matter more for children's outcomes than the quantity of time fathers spend with their children. (Goldman, R (2005). 'Fathers' involvement in their Children's Education'. National Family and Parenting Institute.) There is consistent evidence that fathers' interest and involvement in learning is statistically associated with better outcomes, (ibid)

In 2007 two thirds of parents said that they would like to get more involved in the child's school life. Work commitments were the most frequently cited barrier by parents (44%) from getting more involved. (Peters et al (2008) Parental Involvement in Children's Education 2007. DCSF).

The report is available here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00924-2008

Analysis of data collected from the British Household Panel Survey (1991-97) found a negative and significant effect on the child's educational attainment as a young adult of the mother's full-time employment when the child was aged 0-5.

The effect of mother's part-time employment is also negative but smaller and less well determined. Similarly, the effect of father's employment is small but again negative. More information on the analysis can be found in 'The Effect of Parents' Employment on Children's Educational Attainment', John Ermisch and Marco Francesconi, 2000, available here:

http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/publications/working-papers/iser/2000-31.pdf

Free Schools

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirements there are for public consultation on the location of free schools. [48368]

Mr Gibb: The duty to consult on the establishment of a Free School is set out under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010.

Free Schools: Admissions

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether free schools will be obliged to adopt fair admissions criteria which place emphasis on increasing access to high quality education for children from all backgrounds. [49578]

Mr Gibb: All Free Schools are required, through their funding agreements, to follow the Admissions Code which aims to ensure that all school places are allocated and offered in an open and fair way.

The law requires that Free Schools provide places for children of all abilities who are mainly from the area in which the school is situated.

Free Schools: Wellingborough

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications to establish a free school in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England his Department has received since May 2010. [47655]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* As at 23 March 2011, a total of 323 free school proposals have been received from groups and individuals in England. Of these, three proposals are from Northamptonshire but none from the Wellingborough constituency.

GCSE

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils, *(b)* pupils eligible for free school meals and *(c)* pupils not eligible for free school meals achieved A* to C grades at GCSE in (i) English language, (ii) mathematics, (iii) two sciences, (iv) a language, (v) a humanity and (vi) all five of these subjects in each year since 1997. [38000]

Mr Gibb: The available information is given in the following table.

Number of pupils[1] achieving A-CGCSE grades by free school meal eligibility years: 2009 (final data) to 2010 (amended data), coverage: England, maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)*

	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*		*All pupils[2]*	
	2009	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
All pupils:						
	74,419	77,324	504,377	500,640	578,840	578,063
Achieving A-C grades by subject:*						
English						
Number	27,905	33,178	329,914	349,405	357,846	382,649
Percentage of pupils	37.5	42.9	65.4	69.8	61.8	66.2
Mathematics						
Number	26,075	30,625	312,568	329,997	338,673	360,685
Percentage of pupils	35.0	39.6	62.0	65.9	58.5	62.4
At least two sciences[3]						
Number	15,950	17,604	239,183	246,095	255,142	263,725
Percentage of pupils	21,4	22.8	47.4	49.2	44.1	45.6
Humanities[4]						
Number	9,115	9,997	172,973	174,082	182,098	184,095
Percentage of pupils	12.2	12.9	34.3	34.8	31.5	31.8
Modern Languages[5]						
Number	10,156	10,420	151,824	150,851	161,990	161,299
Percentage of pupils	13.6	13.5	30.1	30.1	28.0	27.9
All of the above subjects						
Number	2,859	3,169	83,842	84,931	86,701	88,107
Percentage of pupils	3.8	4.1	16.6	17.0	15.0	15.2

[1] Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] Includes pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

[3] Pupils who achieved A*-C at Double award Science GCSE, in both (Core Science or Single Science) and Additional Science GCSEs or in at least two of the following subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Science.

[4] Pupils who achieved A*-C at GCSE in History, Geography or both subjects. There is no set definition of 'Humanities', this definition is in line with the proposed English Baccalaureate.

[5] Pupils who achieved A*-C at GCSE in at least one of the following subjects: French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian.

Source:
National Pupil Database

The additional data are not currently available, the Department will be conducting new analysis to prepare the data from 2003 and will place a copy in the House Libraries once it has been completed and write to the hon. Member. However, pupil level characteristics data are not available before 2002.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made in reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36975]

Tim Loughton: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has responsibility for Health and Safety regulations within the UK and it is their responsibility to review their regulations. HSE has not announced a significant change in the regulations. There are no health and safety regulations which are aimed specifically at the education system. Where health and safety regulations have an impact upon the education system or working environment the Department for Education continues to have an active dialogue with the HSE to ensure that the regulations that apply have good guidance and are applied proportionately.

Marriage Guidance: Finance

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to *(a)* put funding for relationship support on a stable, long-term footing and *(b)* encourage couples to access existing relationship support. [36783]

Tim Loughton: In his speech on 10 December, the Prime Minister announced that the Government will dedicate £7.5 million a year over each of the next four years to supporting relationships. This will put funding for relationship support on a stable footing. (Through "Improving outcomes for children, young people and families: a National Prospectus" my Department has invited organisations to apply for grants for relationship support, including "work to encourage couples to take up preventative support to develop and sustain their relationship" as one of its priorities for this dedicated funding.)

Public Bodies: Reform Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the powers of those bodies that are proposed for abolition in the Education Bill will be transferred to the Secretary of State following the closure of those bodies. [38699]

Tim Loughton: In all cases the Secretary of State will be taking on some of the powers, apart from the School Support Staff Negotiating Body, where he is taking on none.

The new delivery model will also produce tangible benefits for schools, governors, teachers, parents, children and the public, by allowing more resource to be directed at the front line, where it matters most. The greater coherence and accountability of the system will enable our customers to see more clearly who is accountable for what, and to speak more directly to Government about their concerns. Instead of having several, sometimes conflicting, voices from official agencies giving different versions of the Government's policy, there will be a single clear message coming direct from Government. The abolition of several ALBs signals an end to centralised control over aspects of education where there is no need for the government to be involved, and supports greater devolution to localities and the front line, enabling more decisions to be taken by schools themselves, rather than by intermediate bodies The creation of executive agencies, rather than simply bringing the delivery functions into the Department, is also aimed at safeguarding independence in areas where this is important.

Pupils: Bullying

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) for what reasons no mention was made of transphobic bullying in sections 3.6, 3.19 and 3.20 of the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching"; and if he will make a statement; [49367]

(2) if he will ensure that information on where to seek guidance on how to deal with transphobic bullying will be included in the proposed new anti-bullying in schools guidance; and if he will make a statement. [49368]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to tackling all forms of bullying particularly those motivated by prejudice. We want every school to have a strong ethos on good behaviour which includes a culture of respect and acceptance among pupils, staff and the rest of the school community. The Schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', is a wide-ranging document which sets out the Government's overall approach to different aspects of education, one being behaviour. In that chapter, we made it very clear that schools should not tolerate any form of prejudice-based bullying, regardless of motivation.

Homophobic bullying was cited as an example of bullying which is prevalent and often not tackled effectively. However in developing anti-bullying strategies, school staff should assess the particular motivations behind bullying in their schools including, where appropriate, any transphobic bullying, and incorporate those issues accordingly.

Our proposed new short advice to schools on preventing and tackling bullying will highlight transphobic bullying as one of the types of prejudice-based bullying schools should address. This advice will also signpost schools to further resources from external organisations who are experts in transgender issues. Officials have been working with a range of organisations in developing this advice.

School Sport Partnerships

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the likely effects on levels of youth crime of ending the funding for the School Sport Partnership prior to taking his decision to do so. [27590]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with the Home Office about the likely effects on levels of youth crime of the changes to school sports funding. However, this Department works closely with other Departments with an interest in taking forward the new approach to school sport.

Funding of £47 million has been paid to school sport partnerships to fund their work up until the end of the summer term 2011. Ring-fenced funding for partnerships will not continue beyond then. Instead, the Department is making available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. The funding will cover the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13, and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra- and inter-school competition.

In addition, at the Sports Colleges Conference in February, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced outline plans for a network of School Games Organisers from September 2011. These organisers will be funded by the Department of Health and Sport England for three days a week to help schools sign up for the nationwide school games. Further details on the funding for these organiser posts and their precise roles will be announced shortly.

School Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of his Department's budget for funding for school buildings and facilities he expects to be spent on sports facilities; and if he will make a statement. [27400]

Tim Loughton: Decisions on the amount of capital funding to be spent on school sports facilities are for schools and local authorities. The Secretary of State would expect them to take into account the need for sufficient and adequate facilities for physical education and sport when making these decisions.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely number of redundancies arising from his Department's reduction in expenditure on school sport in the school year 2011-12. [36871]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: Staff who make up the previous Administration's PE and sport strategy are employed by a mixture of schools, local authorities and others, and the Department does not collect redundancy information from these bodies.

Science: Secondary Education

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of prospects for the future of science teaching in schools at *(a)* Key Stage 3, *(b)* GCSE and *(c)* A-level. [17233]

Mr Gibb: Our White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", and subsequent announcements have set out the Government's plans for comprehensive reform of school curriculum, qualifications and teacher supply. These reforms will lay the foundations for improving teaching at all stages, including Key Stage 3, GCSE and A levels, and ensure that standards in science, and those for other subjects, match those of the best performing countries.

In addition, the White Paper confirmed that we will provide targeted support specifically to tackle long-standing problems in science and mathematics education. We will support programmes to improve the supply of specialist science teachers and ensure that they can develop their subject knowledge and teaching skills during their careers. We will also support schools in improving the take-up, teaching and achievement in the most demanding and rigorous science options such as GCSE Triple Science, and A level Physics and Further Mathematics. We will be announcing in due course our detailed polices, programmes and funding to secure these objectives.

Special Educational Needs

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to his Green Paper on special educational needs, when he plans to publish the national special educational needs and disabilities voluntary and community sector prospectus. [47286]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 18 March 2011]*: "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability" signals a significant involvement for the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector (VCS) in taking forward proposed reforms.

"Support and aspiration" explains our intent shortly to issue an SEN and Disability prospectus which will set out the key areas in which we will make funding available and guidance for organisations that wish to bid for grants or contracts.

We have already provided £6.5 million to SEN and Disability VCS organisations for projects which will start in April 2011 following an earlier exercise which began in November 2010.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what data his Department holds on the number and proportion of school pupils with each type of special educational need in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [48411]

Sarah Teather: Pupils with special educational needs comprise those at School Action, School Action Plus or with statements of special educational needs.

School Action is where extra or different help is given from that provided as part of the school's usual curriculum. School Action Plus is where the class teacher and the SEN coordinator receive advice or support from outside specialists (the specialist teacher, an educational psychologist, a speech and language therapist or other health professionals). A pupil has a statement of special educational needs when a formal assessment has been made. A document setting out the child's needs and the extra help they should receive is in place.

The information requested is shown in the following table for pupils at School Action Plus or with statements of special educational needs. Information on type of need for pupils at School Action is not collected.

The latest available information on the primary need of pupils with special educational needs can be found in the "Special Educational Needs in England" Statistical First Release in Table 11:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: Number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) by type of need[4,5] January 2010—Ashfield parliamentary constituency, Nottinghamshire local authority and England

	Pupils with SEN at School Action Plus					
	Ashfield parliamentary constituency		Nottinghamshire local authority		England	
	Number	%[6]	Number	%[6]	Number	%[6]
Specific learning difficulty	40	6.1	420	8.3	67,760	13.9

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: Number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) by type of need[4,5] January 2010—Ashfield parliamentary constituency, Nottinghamshire local authority and England

	Pupils with SEN at School Action Plus					
	Ashfield parliamentary constituency		*Nottinghamshire local authority*		*England*	
	Number	*%[6]*	*Number*	*%[6]*	*Number*	*%[6]*
Moderate learning difficulty	120	19.4	970	19.2	130,460	26.8
Severe learning difficulty	30	4.9	130	2.6	3,490	0.7
Profound and multiple learning difficulty	[7]—	[7]—	30	0.5	710	0.1
Behaviour, emotional and social difficulties	160	27.5	1,520	30.1	128,250	26.3
Speech, language and communications	80	14.0	600	11.8	85,780	17.6
Hearing impairment	10	1.5	90	1.8	9,100	1.9
Visual impairment	20	2.5	90	1.7	4,920	1.0
Multi-sensory impairment	[7]—	[7]—	10	0.2	410	0.1
Physical disability	30	4.6	260	5.1	12,210	2.5
Autistic spectrum disorder	100	16.0	670	13.2	16,930	3.5
Other difficulty/disability	20	2.5	280	5.5	27,110	5.6
Total	590	100.0	5,060	100.0	487,120	100.0

	Pupils with statements of SEN					
	Ashfield parliamentary constituency		*Nottinghamshire local authority*		*England*	
	Number	*%[6]*	*Number*	*%[6]*	*Number*	*%[6]*
Specific learning difficulty	[7]—	[7]—	30	2.1	11,850	5.7
Moderate learning difficulty	50	23.3	190	15.7	38,120	18.2
Severe learning difficulty	20	11.9	200	16.3	25,280	12.1
Profound and multiple learning difficulty	[7]—	[7]—	80	6.8	8,770	4.2
Behaviour, emotional and social difficulties	20	9.8	140	11.3	29,760	14.2
Speech, language and communications	10	3.1	110	8.7	27,620	13.2
Hearing impairment	0	0.0	20	1.6	6,420	3.1
Visual impairment	[7]—	[7]—	10	1.2	3,660	1.7
Multi-sensory impairment	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	470	0.2
Physical disability	50	27.5	100	8.5	14,270	6.8
Autistic spectrum disorder	30	14.0	310	25.7	39,320	18.8
Other difficulty/disability	10	3.6	20	1.8	3,910	1.9
Total	190	100.0	1,210	100.0	209,440	1000

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[5] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.

[6] Number of pupils by their primary need expressed as a percentage of all pupils at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN.

[7] Fewer than five pupils or a rate based on fewer than five pupils.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number and proportion of school children diagnosed with each type of special educational need resident in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency, *(b)* Bolton, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England. [49596]

Mr Gibb: The Department holds information on the number and proportion of school children diagnosed with each type of special educational need. This information can also be broken down by the type of school, and that information, along with information for all schools, has been provided in the following table:

All schools[1,2,3], maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: Number and percentage of pupils by type of special educational need[4,5]—January 2010 final, England

	Pupils with SEN by their primary type of need[1,2]							
	Bolton South East parliamentary constituency		*Bolton local authority district*		*Greater Manchester*		*England[8]*	
	No.	*%[7]*	*No.*	*%[7]*	*No.*	*%[7]*	*No.*	*%[7]*
All schools[3]								
Specific Learning Difficulty	70	5.1	200	6.2	3,580	10.5	79,570	11.4
Moderate Learning Difficulty	560	41.6	1,220	38.3	10,270	30.0	168,560	24.2
Severe Learning Difficulty	60	4.5	160	5.0	1,790	5.2	28,760	4.1
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	30	2.1	60	2.0	680	2.0	9,470	1.4
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	260	19.4	660	20.9	7,370	21.5	157,960	22.7

All schools[1,2,3], maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: Number and percentage of pupils by type of special educational need[4,5]—January 2010 final, England

	Pupils with SEN by their primary type of need[1,2]							
	Bolton South East parliamentary constituency		Bolton local authority district		Greater Manchester		England[6]	
	No.	%[7]	No.	%[7]	No.	%[7]	No.	%[7]
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	130	9.5	300	9.4	4,210	12.3	113,380	16.3
Hearing Impairment	50	3.3	110	3.4	810	2.4	15,500	2.2
Visual Impairment	20	1.6	50	1.6	440	1.3	8,560	1.2
Multi-Sensory Impairment	—	—	—	0.1	50	0.1	870	0.1
Physical Disability	50	3.7	110	3.4	1,190	3.5	26,470	3.8
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	90	6.8	250	8.0	2,280	6.7	56,240	8.1
Other Difficulty/Disability	30	2.2	60	1.7	1,540	4.5	31,000	4.5
Total	1,350	100.0	3,170	100.0	34,190	100.0	696,340	100.0
Maintained primary schools[1]								
Specific Learning Difficulty	20	3.6	80	5.5	1,520	9.3	33,460	10.2
Moderate Learning Difficulty	310	47.4	630	43.8	5,340	32.8	82,060	24.9
Severe Learning Difficulty	10	1.5	30	1.8	330	2.0	4,860	1.5
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	—	—	—	—	100	0.6	1,440	0.4
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	120	17.8	270	18.7	3,010	18.5	61,000	18.5
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	90	14.5	210	14.7	3,230	19.8	87,490	26.5
Hearing Impairment	10	2.2	30	2.2	410	2.5	7,230	2.2
Visual Impairment	10	1.9	30	1.9	240	1.5	4,110	1.2
Multi-Sensory Impairment	—	—	—	—	20	0.1	500	0.2
Physical Disability	30	4.6	60	4.0	620	3.8	12,990	3.9
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	20	2.6	60	4.1	780	4.8	21,330	6.5
Other Difficulty/Disability	10	2.2	30	2.0	680	4.2	13,200	4.0
Total	640	100.0	1,410	100.0	16,290	100.0	329,680	100.0
State-funded secondary schools[1,2]								
Specific Learning Difficulty	40	8.5	120	8.9	2,020	15.6	45,110	16.3
Moderate Learning Difficulty	220	43.1	510	39.3	3,900	30.3	67,840	24.5
Severe Learning Difficulty	10	1.6	20	1.8	180	1.4	2,590	0.9
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	0	0.0	—	—	10	0.1	280	0.1
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	120	24.0	330	25.0	3,680	28.6	83,940	30.3
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	30	6.2	80	6.2	760	5.9	21,570	7.8
Hearing Impairment	20	3.4	50	3.9	340	2.7	6,730	2.4
Visual Impairment	10	1.2	20	1.5	170	1.3	3,650	1.3
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0	0.0	—	—	20	0.1	210	0.1
Physical Disability	20	3.2	40	3.4	400	3.1	9,390	3.4
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	30	6.2	100	7.8	570	4.4	18,160	6.6
Other Difficulty/Disability	10	2.8	30	1.9	840	6.5	17,240	6.2
Total	500	100.0	1,300	100.0	12,880	100.0	276,700	100.0
Maintained special schools[3]								
Specific Learning Difficulty	—	—	—	0.7	40	0.9	930	1.1
Moderate Learning Difficulty	40	18.8	80	18.9	930	19.7	18,380	21.5
Severe Learning Difficulty	40	23.1	110	25.7	1,270	26.9	21,090	24.6
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	20	10.2	40	10.1	560	11.9	7,570	8.8
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	30	13.4	70	16.3	660	13.9	12,460	14.5
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	—	1.6	10	1.7	210	4.5	3,780	4.4
Hearing Impairment	10	7.0	30	5.9	50	1.0	760	0.9
Visual Impairment	—	—	—	—	20	0.3	500	0.6
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.2	150	0.2
Physical Disability	—	2.2	10	1.4	170	3.5	3,670	4.3
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	40	21.5	80	18.9	790	16.7	15,850	18.5
Other Difficulty/Disability	—	—	—	—	20	0.5	510	0.6
Total	190	100.0	420	100.0	4,720	100.0	85,630	100.0
Non-maintained special schools[3]								
Specific Learning Difficulty	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	0.3	70	1.6
Moderate Learning Difficulty	0	0.0	0	0.0	100	32.3	280	6.5
Severe Learning Difficulty	0	0.0	—	—	10	3.7	220	5.2
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	0	0.0	—	—	10	2.0	180	4.2

All schools[1,2,3], maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: Number and percentage of pupils by type of special educational need[4,5]—January 2010 final, England

	Pupils with SEN by their primary type of need[1,2]							
	Bolton South East parliamentary constituency		Bolton local authority district		Greater Manchester		England[6]	
	No.	%[7]	No.	%[7]	No.	%[7]	No.	%[7]
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	0	0.0	—	—	10	4.8	560	12.8
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	0	0.0	—	—	—	1.4	540	12.4
Hearing Impairment	—	—	—	—	10	2.0	790	18.3
Visual Impairment	—	—	—	13.6	20	6.8	300	6.9
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	10	0.3
Physical Disability	0	0.0	0	0.0	—	—	420	9.7
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	—	50.0	10	63.6	140	45.9	900	20.8
Other Difficulty/Disability	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	60	1.4
Total	10	100.0	20	100.0	290	100.0	4,330	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils with SEN status of School Action Plus and those with pupils with statements of SEN who provided information on their primary, and if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is supplied in this table.

[5] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[6] Includes pupils with missing or invalid postcodes.

[7] Number of pupils by their main need expressed as a percentage of all pupils with SEN status of School Action Plus or with statements of SEN.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Special Educational Needs: Training

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions his Department has had with Teach First on future levels of training for special educational needs teachers. [49941]

Mr Gibb: Following the publication of the SALT Review (Independent Review of Teacher Supply for Pupils with Severe, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD and PMLS)), called for by the previous administration, officials had informal conversations with a range of organisations including Teach First.

The Training and Development Agency (TDA) for schools is now taking forward special educational needs training as part of ITT training courses.

Special Schools

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many special schools he has visited since May 2010. [39249]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove), has visited a number of schools since May 2010 but has not so far visited a special school. In January, the Secretary of State together with the Minister of State (Sarah Teather) and the Under-Secretary of State (Lord Hill of Oareford) hosted 52 special school head teachers at a Breakfast Briefing.

Sure Start: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has provided to Sure Start in each year since its inception; and how much he has allocated to the programme in each of the next five years. [48252]

Sarah Teather: The funding allocated to local authorities for Sure Start since its inception is shown in Table 1:

Table 1

			£ million
	Revenue	*Capital*	*Total*
1998-99	140	0	140
1999-2000	192	0	192
2000-01	353	0	353
2001-02	449	0	449
2002-03	501	23	524
2003-04	573	25	598
2004-06[1]	1,588	354	1,943
2006-07	1,048	270	1,318
2007-08	1,143	543	1,686
2008-09	1,327	306	1,633
2009-10	1,555	416	1,971
2010-11	1,839	367	2,207
Total	10,707	2,304	13,011

[1] In 2004 to 2006 local authorities received a two year allocation

The first Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs) were set up in 1999-2000. Prior to 2003-04 SSLP revenue funding was provided to local programmes not to local authorities and is therefore excluded from the table above. From 2003-04 it was paid to local authorities and is included in the table above. The most reliable data for the period prior to 2003 are for expenditure rather than allocation.

The SSLP revenue expenditure for 1999-2003 is shown in Table 2:

Table 2

				£ million
	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
SSLP revenue expenditure	3	33	105	174

The SSLPs received a single capital allocation for the period 1999 to 2006 of £479,638,144.

From April 2011, Sure Start children's centres funding will be provided to local authorities via the Early Intervention Grant which is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated grant for early intervention and preventative services that will total £2,222,555,697 in 2011-12 and £2,307,196,996 in 2012-13. Allocations beyond 2012-13 have not been announced.

Sure Start children's centres are at the heart of the Government's vision for supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. Through the Early Intervention Grant, the Government have ensured there is enough money to retain a network of Sure Start children's centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need. The Government have made it clear that it is for local authorities to determine the most effective use of the grant. Local authorities will have greater flexibility, but they remain under statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and to secure sufficient children's centres provision to meet local need, so far as is reasonably practicable.

For details of final local authority EIG allocations please go to:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/e/early%20intervention%20grant%20-%20final%20allocations%20methodology.xls

Teachers: Qualifications

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* process and *(b)* timetable he has put in place for allowing qualified further education lecturers to teach in school classrooms on the same basis as qualified school teachers; and if he will make a statement. [49454]

Mr Gibb: Following her review of vocational education, Professor Wolf recommended that Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status should be recognised in schools for the delivery of vocational education. The Secretary of State for Education immediately accepted this recommendation.

Professor Wolf's recommendation will be implemented as soon as possible subject to statutory requirements and parliamentary process. We will consult fully on any amendments to the existing regulations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Wines

Simon Kirby: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Service spent on wine in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [49085]

John Thurso: The House's Catering and Retail Service holds a stock of wine for resale, which is replenished as and when required, but does not generally purchase wine to be laid down for future consumption. The valuation at the end of 2009-10 was £45,717. In 2009-10 purchases for re-sale were £497,403. Some wine is purchased for official receptions, but the cost of wine for these cannot be separately identified.

CABINET OFFICE

Alcohol and Drugs: Death

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths in the Medway area were *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug related and how many of those who died were aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years old in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [50049]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many deaths in the Medway area were (a) alcohol and (b) drug related and how many of those who died were aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years old in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (50049).

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was (a) alcohol-related (Table 1) and (b) drug poisoning (Table 2), for persons aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years, in Medway unitary authority, for the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Figures for alcohol-related deaths in the UK, England and Wales, and government office regions are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496

Figures for deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales by sex, age, cause and substance involved are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11695

Table 1. Number of deaths where the underlying cause of death was alcohol-related, Medway unitary authority, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3]

Deaths (person)

Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0
18-24	0	0	0	0	0
25-40	4	3	3	2	5
Over 40	30	38	25	37	24
Total	34	41	28	39	29

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific conditions which are included in the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excluding K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0

Box 1: National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Table 2. Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death, Medway unitary authority, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3]

Deaths (persons)

Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0
18-24	1	4	1	2	2
25-40	9	6	8	6	9
Over 40	4	2	4	3	9
Total	14	12	13	11	20

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The ICD-10 codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 2.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 2: ICD-10 codes for deaths related to drug poisoning

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Employment: Horticulture

Nic Dakin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an estimate of the number of people aged 16 to 24 who are employed in the gardening industry; and whether he has assessed trends in the levels of employment of young people in the gardening industry in the last 10 years. [49766]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether he has made a estimate of the number of people aged 16 to 24 who are employed in the gardening industry; and whether he has assessed trends in the levels of employment of young people in the gardening industry in the last 10 years. 49766

The available information is provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Number of people aged 16-24 who are employed in the gardening industry[1]*, three months ending December, 2000 to 2010, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

	Thousand
2000	10
2001	13
2002	13
2003	18
2004	17
2005	15
2006	18
2007	16
2008	13
2009	12
2010	****19

[1] The gardening industry has been defined as: agriculture service activities; landscape gardening; landscape service activities and gardeners employed in private households.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Government: Assets

Ben Gummer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what action the Cabinet Office is taking to co-ordinate the sale of property assets across the government estate. [49379]

Mr Maude: As announced in Budget 2011, the Government, as part of the programme for the more efficient use and consolidation of their property holdings, continue to look at property disposals. Asset sales may be appropriate where the property is surplus and market conditions are right, and updates will be provided when specific transactions are envisaged.

Public Sector: Manpower

Mr Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Poole constituency are employed in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector. [50545]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Poole constituency are employed in (a) the public sector and (b) the private sector. (50545)

Public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey.

According to APS figures, in the 12 month period October 2009 to September 2010, in Poole constituency 29,000 were employed in the private sector and 10,000 were employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Unemployment

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency, *(b)* Medway Council area and *(c)* Tonbridge and Malling constituency. [50048]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of workless households, in (a) Chatham and Aylesford constituency, (b) Medway Council area, and (c) Tonbridge and Malling constituency (50048).

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The latest data currently available is for 2009. The attached table shows estimates for Chatham and Aylesford constituency and Medway. Due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Tonbridge and Malling constituency because of small sample sizes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value for 95% of all possible samples.

Table 1: Number of workless households[1] in Chatham and Aylesford constituency, and Medway

Thousand

	Estimate	Lower bound[2]	Upper bound[2]
January to December 2009	6	4	8
	17	14	20

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.

[2] 95% confidence interval.

Source:

APS household dataset

HEALTH

Allergies: Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is taking steps to increase the number of allergy specialists in the NHS. [50042]

Paul Burstow: It is for local commissioners to assess the priorities for developing local services to meet the needs of their populations. The Department will then agree with strategic health authorities and NHS Employers the number of training posts needed to meet estimated future demand in each specialty. In the case of allergy services, decisions by local commissioners will be informed by the outcomes of a pilot study in NHS North West of the concept of a multi-disciplinary "allergy centre" as advocated in the 2007 report by the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee.

Care Homes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the effect of the reduction in funding for local authorities on the cost to patients of placements with independent social care providers; and if he will make a statement. [49785]

Paul Burstow: The spending review recognised the importance of social care in protecting most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

Local authorities are responsible for decisions on how to allocate their resources, and the contracts that they negotiate with independent care providers. The Department does not collect information on these contracts.

Cataracts: Waiting Lists

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has a target for the treatment of cataract patients within three months of referral. [50250]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no specific target for the treatment of cataract patients. The right to start consultant-led treatment, including consultant-led cataract treatment, within maximum waiting times remains in the NHS Constitution. As set out in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12, commissioners should ensure that waiting times performance does not deteriorate and where possible improves during 2011-12.

Departmental Public Opinion

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure has been incurred by his Department on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each month since 1 January 2010; what surveys were commissioned; what the purpose was of each survey; and if he will publish the findings. [49839]

Mr Simon Burns: A list of expenditure incurred by Department on opinion polling, focus groups and other forms of market research in each month since 1 January 2010; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose of each survey, could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as the Department does not hold this information centrally.

Health Services: Walsall

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the change in the number of staff employed by Walsall primary care trust or its successor as a result of implementation of proposed changes to the NHS. [50111]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated staff redundancy and transfer rates were published in the impact assessment alongside the current Health and Social Care Bill.

The Department has not estimated a local breakdown of these figures, as this will depend on local decisions.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Chesterfield of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 539W, on incinerators: health hazards, whether his Department has assessed the effect on public health of emissions from functioning incinerators since the date of that answer; [49717]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on public health of emissions from incinerators since 2008. [49742]

Anne Milton: The Department has not assessed the effect on public health of emissions from incinerators since the date of the written answer in November 2009, nor has it commissioned or evaluated research into the effects on public health of emissions from incinerators since 2008. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) published a report of its review of the latest scientific evidence on the health effects of modern municipal waste incinerators in September 2009. The report concludes that while it is not possible to rule adverse health effects out completely, any potential damage from modern, well run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable. The HPA report also advises that since any possible health effects are likely to be very small, if detectable, studies of public health around modern, well managed municipal waste incinerators would yield no useful information.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the results of the IVAN trial of alternative treatments for the inhibition of vascular endothelial growth factor in age-related choriodal neovascularisation funded by his Department. [49946]

Mr Simon Burns: Year one follow-up findings are expected in late 2011 or early 2012. The final report of the trial is expected to be published in 2014.

Medical Records: Living Wills

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on amendments to the NHS Summary Care Record System that will enable the addition of living wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney to a record; and whether such amendments will enable supporting information concerning a patient's wishes to be included on their records. [50062]

Mr Simon Burns: The purpose of the summary care record (SCR) is to provide the minimal information required to support safe care in urgent and emergency situations.

The main recommendation of a review of the content of the SCR, which was led by Sir Bruce Keogh and reported in October 2010, was that the core information should only include a patient's medications, allergies, and adverse reactions. Any additional information beyond this should only be added to the SCR with the explicit consent of the patient.

We firmly believe that it is for patients to decide if any additional information should be included in their SCR.

Supported by appropriate professionals, patients wanting to add information pertaining to their wishes as expressed in living wills or a lasting power of attorney are already free to do so.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients were treated overseas in each country for each type of condition in each of the last three years; and what the cost to the NHS of such treatment was. [49807]

Anne Milton: To identify details of the number of national health service patients treated for each type of condition, in each overseas country, and the cost of each treatment, in each of the last three years would incur disproportionate cost.

Monitor

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of *(a)* levels of expenditure by Monitor on staff and *(b)* the number of staff to be employed by Monitor in each of the next five years. [50285]

Mr Simon Burns: We do not currently hold information centrally on estimated numbers of staff for Monitor, and its associated expenditure on staff, in each of the next five years. The Government's estimate of Monitor's future annual budget was set out in the impact assessment published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill (19 January 2011) and quoted a figure of £72 million, by 2015-16.

The Department has continued to refine these estimates since the impact assessment was published, and I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Easington (Grahame M. Morris) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 167W.

NHS: Competition

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of regulating health competition in each category of expenditure in each of the next five years. [50284]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill, estimates the annual running costs of Monitor at £72 million by 2015-16. At this stage, we do not hold information centrally on estimated annual running costs for Monitor, or an estimated breakdown of expenditure, for each of the next five years. The Bill proposes that Monitor would be responsible for regulating competition in relation to health care services. It would be for Monitor to decide how to prioritise the use of its resources in pursuit of its overarching duty to protect and promote patients' interests. Monitor would be accountable to Parliament for its expenditure and would be expected to demonstrate value for money through its annual reports.

NHS: Expenditure

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the outturn expenditure of the NHS in England in each of the last five financial years on a basis directly comparable with the estimate he has made for its outturn expenditure in 2010-11. [50056]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out the last five years' expenditure on a basis that is directly comparable to the estimate of the Department's latest forecast outturn of expenditure that was included in the 2011 Budget report.

Outturn (£ billion)

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
NHS resource	72.8	76.7	82.3	88.8	95.6	99.5
Depreciation	-0.5	-1.0	-0.7	-1.0	-1.2	-1.1
NHS resource minus depreciation	72.3	75.7	81.6	87.8	94.4	98.4
NHS capital	2.1	2.9	3.8	4.2	5.0	4.5
Total NHS	74.4	78.6	85.4	92.0	99.4	102.9

[1] Estimated outturn

The figures for 2005-06 to 2009-10 are taken from the Core Tables on page 125 of the Department of Health's 2009-10 Resource Account (HC208).

The figures provided are after having adjusted for the technical classification changes arising from the implementation of the Alignment (or 'Clear Line of Sight') legislation—the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

The 2010-11 figure is the estimated NHS outturn for 2010-11 that was published on page 48 of the 2011 Budget (HC836).

The estimated outturn for 2010-11 includes a forecast underspend of £0.65 billion. The Department's underspend for 2009-10 was £1.6 billion.[2]

[2] The 2009-10 underspend figure is based upon the previous classification method.

NHS: Finance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what allocations were included in the estimate for NHS *(a)* Resource and *(b)* Capital Departmental Expenditure limits for 2010-11 in the June 2010 Budget but not in the limits in the 2010 comprehensive spending review; and what the monetary value is of each such allocation. [50055]

Mr Simon Burns: The question refers to the difference in figures quoted in the June 2010 Budget and in the 2010 comprehensive spending review. The differences are due to categorisation and financial currency of the numbers.

Table 2.2 in June Budget 2010 reports figures for 2010-11 of £101.5 billion for Health of which NHS England is £99.5 billion on Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL). The difference in figures is Personal Social Services (PSS) centrally funded services, PSS grants and Food Standards Agency (FSA). Both figures included depreciation of £1.1 billion.

The baseline 2010-11 figure in Spending Review Statistical Annex Table A5 of £98.7 billion excludes depreciation (£1.1 billion), but includes £0.3 billion of additions to the NHS baseline by HM Treasury to reverse inter-departmental transfers of funding—this procedure is followed to avoid funding either not being counted or counted twice in spending review bids.

PSS and FSA expenditure is shown separate to NHS funding in the spending review tables.

Table 2.2 in June Budget 2010 reports figures for 2010-11 of £4.9 billion for Health of which NHS England is £4.7 billion on capital DEL. The difference in figures is capital funding for Personal Social Services.

The baseline 2010-11 figure in Spending Review Statistical Annex Table A6 of £5.1 billion, is higher than the £4.7 billion again due to HM Treasury action to reverse inter-departmental transfers of funding.

Surgery

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many internal operations were carried out on NHS patients in each year since 1996-97. [50114]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held in the format requested. Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data do not have categories of 'internal operations'. However, we have provided a count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a named main procedure or intervention for the years 1996-97 to 2009-10. It should be noted that these figures do not represent the number of patients as a person may have more than one procedure or intervention within a given year.

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector is shown in the following table.

	Total FCEs
1996-97	5,911,350
1997-98	5,908,250

	Total FCEs
1998-99	6,468,404
1999-2000	6,530,852
2000-01	6,509,425
2001-02	6,435,022
2002-03	6,612,582
2003-04	6,772,074
2004-05	6,847,589
2005-06	7,215,286
2006-07	7,888,074
2007-08	8,606,493
2008-09	9,274,423
2009-10	9,747,584

Notes:

1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. Main procedure or intervention—The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (eg time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

3. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

4. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES); Outpatients, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Tattooing

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 452W, on tattoos, whether it is his Department's policy to fund the removal of tattoos on the NHS. [49784]

Anne Milton: Tattoo removal may be available on the national health service, according to local primary care trust policies, if a clinician considers that an individual patient's health requires it.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Botswana: Charities

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide advice to UK charities operating in Botswana on the use of terminology in publications that does not cause offence to sections of the local population. [50253]

Mr O'Brien: The Department of International Development is willing to provide advice on terminology and other issues, where it is appropriate to do so, to UK charities funded by the Department.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's commitment to agriculture and food security made at the G8 L'Aquila summit has been disbursed to date; and what plans his Department has for the use of the remaining funds before 2012. [49936]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is on track to meet its commitments on global food security and agriculture made at the 2009 L'Aquila summit. In the first year of this pledge, DFID had disbursed 32% of its total commitment of £1.1 billion.

The recent bilateral and multilateral aid reviews have set out the results which DFID will deliver in the next four years. In summary, it is envisaged that we will stop 10 million more children going hungry and ensure a further four million people have enough food throughout the year. We anticipate working on food security in a small number of countries including Ethiopia, (South) Sudan, Zimbabwe and Burma. We will also continue to support multilateral agencies with a mandate on food and nutritional security. Agriculture will continue to be a major focus for DFID's Research and Evidence Division, which has increased its support for agriculture by 60% over the last three years.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effects on its provision of projects to *(a)* treat and *(b)* prevent maternal tuberculosis of the absence of an indicator for the incidence of maternal tuberculosis in the maternal health strategy. [49723]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports national health plans and where countries put in place specific systems to monitor TB, we will support this. Where TB is a high risk and common complication of pregnancy, we would expect to invest in that. The monitoring and evaluation framework in the "Choices for women" Framework for Results cannot be all-inclusive given the many aspects of reproductive, maternal and newborn health that we expect to support in the countries where we work. We must balance our need for accurate data to measure progress whilst not creating additional reporting burdens for countries or parallel monitoring systems.

The framework is clear that strong health systems are needed to deliver reproductive, maternal and newborn health services and that the expansion of coverage of the proven interventions and services that women and newborns need, particularly under the "continuum of care" is a priority. This includes screening for TB.

Sudan: Israel

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on the provision of assistance by Israel to refugees from Sudan. [49850]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We have held no discussions with the Government of Israel on this matter.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 1 April 2011

HEALTH

Barnes Hospital

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of Barnes hospital. [50028]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. The Secretary of State for Health has outlined new, strengthened criteria that he expects decisions on NHS service changes to meet.

We are advised that there have been discussions between local NHS organisations who are considering how best to provide older people's services in the boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth, and that they are committed to keeping all local Members of Parliament informed.

Dementia: Alcoholic Drinks

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with alcohol-related dementia in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [50051]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department.

General Practitioners: Fees and Charges

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department provides national guidelines to GPs on the fees they may charge to patients for signing certificates and completing medical forms. [50530]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the terms of their contract with the national health service, general practitioners (GPs) are required to provide certain, prescribed, medical certificates free of charge—such as those to prove incapacity to work. Outside of these arrangements, GPs also provide a variety of other services which successive governments have regarded as private matters between the patient and the doctor providing the service. The doctor is free to make a charge for these non-NHS services if he or she wishes.

The fees for the provision of services by GPs outside those contracted for under GP contractual arrangements are not set by the Department nor are they a matter for Government. As independent contractors, this is something for the individual practice to determine. The Professional Fees Committee of the British Medical Association (BMA) suggests fees for such services to help doctors set their own professional fees. However, these fees are guidelines only, not recommendations, and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates suggested. Where doctors intend to charge for services to patients, the BMA advises them to forewarn patients, at the earliest opportunity, of the likely level of fees.

Hepatitis

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has undertaken an audit of or research on the health of hepatitis C patients after they have been classed as natural clearers. [50565]

Anne Milton: As part of the recent 'Review of the support available to individuals infected with hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants', an expert scientific review of the evidence base on the spectrum and impact of disease associated with hepatitis C infection was undertaken. The issue of patients who clear the virus, either naturally or following treatment, was carefully considered. The group's report is in annex 4 of the review report. A copy of the review report has already been placed in the Library, and a copy of the minutes of the group's meeting has been placed in the Library. The Department has not commissioned any research on this issue.

National Commissioning Board: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what duties the National Commissioning Board has in respect of medical research. [50735]

Mr Simon Burns: Clause 19 of the Health and Social Care Bill outlines further provisions for the NHS Commissioning Board including a duty that the Board must, in the exercise of its functions, have regard to the need to promote research on matters relevant to the health service, and the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research.

Sleep: Health Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sleep clinics there are in each primary care trust. [50023]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not held centrally.

Strategic Health Authorities: Consultants

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* management and *(b)* consultancy costs were incurred by each (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08, (C) 2008-09 and (D) 2009-10. [50563]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on expenditure on managers and senior managers for 2006-07 to 2009-10 and consultancy services for 2007-08 to 2009-10 for each strategic health authority and primary care trust has been placed in the Library.

Expenditure on consultancy services was separately identified in the audited summarisation schedules for the first time in 2007-08.

SCOTLAND

Members

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 31W, on Members, what criteria his Department used to identify hon. Members who have intimated an issue in Scottish affairs; and which hon. Members have been so identified. [50384]

David Mundell: There is no formal method for intimating an interest in Scottish affairs. The Scotland Office encourages all hon. and right hon. Members to take an interest in Scottish affairs and will copy generic correspondence to all Scottish MPs (as defined in the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 31W, on Members) and to any MP who has such an interest.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Official Engagements

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in how many weeks he has spent more than three consecutive days on official business in Northern Ireland since May 2010. [50398]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, there have been five weeks that I have spent more than three consecutive days in Northern Ireland. Further to this there have been 16 weeks where I have spent three or more days in Northern Ireland.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Employees: Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, how many and what proportion of employees of the Church Commissioners are entitled to travel by first class rail services at the expense of the Church Commissioners within the UK. [50567]

Tony Baldry: Employees of the seven Church of England National Church Institutions (NCIs) include all staff working at Lambeth Palace, Lambeth Palace Library, Bishopthorpe Palace in York, the Archbishops Council, the Pensions Board, the National Society for Promoting Religious Education and the Church Commissioners must comply with the NCI's expenses policy.

The NCI's expenses policy states that:

> "Where possible travel should be undertaken outside peak times during periods when the cost of travel is normally cheaper. Advantage should be taken of discounted rail tickets, where available, by early booking of Advance or other types of Saver fares.
>
> Class of travel is determined as follows:
>
> Standard class should be used for all journeys other than where:
>
> The facilities provided in Standard class do not meet your needs because you are suffering from a temporary or permanent disability
>
> There are no seats available in standard class
>
> If you need to travel overnight and use a sleeping berth."

Priests

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the average stipend for rural priests was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [50243]

Tony Baldry: The Church Commissioners do not differentiate between which benefices are rural and which are urban. The Church of England is keen for stipends to be adequate to enable clergy to perform their ministries without undue financial anxiety, flexible enough to aid clergy deployment and consistent enough to avoid impeding their mobility. In 2010 the national average stipend for incumbents and incumbent status parochial clergy was £22,570. The projected figure for 2011 is £23,050 (based on responses from 36 dioceses).

Each diocese sets stipends taking into account local circumstances. Dioceses set a diocesan basic stipend for incumbents and incumbent status parochial clergy and most clergy receive stipend at this level. The diocesan basic stipends for 2010 are listed in Annex 2 to the 38th Central Stipends Authority Report (GS Misc 977), which is on the Church of England website, and a copy of which should be in the House of Commons Library.

From April the compulsory national minimum stipend, below which no full-time clergy should be paid, will be £21,370.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43754]

Chris Grayling: DWP and each public body it sponsors incurred the following expenditure on engaging external audit services in the last three years as follows:

Entity	*Auditor*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
The Department				
DWP	NAO[1]	2,397,000	2,199,000	2,181,000
	Deloittes	—	95,476	1,103,985
	PWC	—	—	49,900
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	NAO	[2]—	574,000	637,000
Health and Safety Executive	NAO	126,000	129,000	137,000
	PKF (UK) LLP	32,810	41,685	38,705

Entity	*Auditor*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total		2,555,810	3,039,161	4,147,590
Other sponsored bodies				
Pensions Ombudsman/ Pensions Protection Fund Ombudsman	NAO	15,700	17,500	25,000
Independent Living Fund	NAO	52,000	62,000	66,000
The Pensions Advisory Service	NAO	3,569	13,750	[3]26,000
The Pensions Regulator	NAO	31,000	34,000	49,000
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	NAO	[4]8,000	66,000	67,000
Pension Protection Fund	NAO	125,000	153,000	160,000
Remploy	Deloitte LLP	140,000	170,000	180,000

[1] Fees charged to DWP by NAO are made on a notional basis, i.e. they are recorded as expenditure and a cost to the Department but no physical cash payments are made to NAO.

[2] Prior to the establishment of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, audit fees for the former Child Support Agency were included within the audit fees for the Department. Figures stated represent audit costs for both the Administration and Client Funds Accounts.

[3] Includes £5,000 in relation to 2008-09.

[4] PADA achieved grant in aid status from March 2008. The audit fee quoted for 2007-08 therefore includes fees for March 2008 only. Audit services carried out in 2008-09 and 2009-10 included additional work to provide assurance in respect of the transition and implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Notes:

1. Both CMEC and HSE are Crown NDPBs and are therefore deemed to be part of the Department for accounting purposes.
2. PPF is a public corporation.
3. Remploy has status as both an NDPB and public corporation.
4. All other sponsored bodies are classified as NDPBs.
5. NAO fees have been included on the basis that, although classed as a part of the public sector, they are external to the body in question.

Regulation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department has consulted representatives of small businesses on the effects of proposed new regulations since 6 May 2010. [46147]

Chris Grayling: There is a significant amount of formal and informal consultation and engagement between the Department for Work and Pensions and small business representatives. Information on specific contacts is not co-ordinated centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but I can confirm that we have regular dialogue at ministerial and senior official level with individuals, businesses and umbrella organisations including the Federation of Small Businesses, as well as larger organisations including the CBI and BCC.

During any consultation, we encourage all relevant groups and individuals to participate. During the period in question, the Department has launched the following formal consultation exercises on proposed new legislation that we would expect to be of relevance to small businesses:

The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2011

The consultation on the impact of using CPI for private sector occupational pension schemes

The Draft Pension Protection Fund (Pension Compensation Sharing on Divorce etc.) Regulations 2010

The Draft Pension Protection Fund (Pensions on Divorce etc.: Charges) Regulations 2010

The Draft Financial Assistance Scheme and Pension Protection Fund (Valuation, Revaluation and Indexation Amendments) Regulations 2011

The Pension Protection Fund (Prescribed Payments and Investment Costs) Regulations 2011

Phasing out the default retirement age in 2010 (joint consultation between the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Work and Pensions)

Abolition of contracting out on a defined contribution basis

The Application of Pension Legislation to the National Employment Savings Trust Corporation Regulations 2011

In addition, we have informally consulted representatives of small businesses on a range of measures addressed in the Making Automatic Enrolment Work review—'Regulatory differences between occupational and workplace personal pensions'.

Higher Marginal Deduction Rates

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households liable for higher marginal deduction rates he estimates will fall into each £10,000 income band. [45139]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will improve the incentives to increase hours of work. At present some 0.7 million households in low paid work lose 80% or more of any increase in earnings. Under universal credit, virtually no households will have deduction rates above 76%.

However, there will be individuals with higher marginal deduction rates under universal credit compared to the current system. In some cases this will be a result of higher entitlements under universal credit than under the current system.

The following table shows the numbers who see a higher and lower marginal deduction rate under universal credit compared to the current system, and the median change, split by income bands above £10,000.

Estimated number of households with higher or lower marginal deduction rates under universal credit compared to the current system

Income band	*Higher MDR (million)*	*Median increase (percentage points)*	*Lower MDR (million)*	*Median decrease (percentage points)*
£10,000-£20,000	0.5	4	0.5	21
£20,000-£30,000	1.1	4	0.5	14
£30,000-£40,000	0.3	4	0.2	22
Over £40,000	[1]—	4	[1]—	24
All	1.9	4	1.3	20

[1] Rounds to less than 50,000.

Notes:

1. Case loads rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model (based on 2008-09 Family Resources Survey).

In all bands, the median decrease is larger than the median increase, reflecting the impact that universal credit has on the highest marginal deduction rates.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on the proposed benefit cap, what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposed policy on levels of child poverty. [46403]

Maria Miller: The benefit cap will restrict the total amount of welfare a household can receive to broadly the level of the average earned income after tax for working households. By doing this the policy will deliver fiscal savings, improve work incentives for those on benefits and sit alongside the other measures announced in the spending review to make the system fair and affordable.

Any measurement of the effect on child poverty is limited by the variable of individual behavioural response to the policy. Impact on child poverty will be mitigated if adults in the families affected move into work. We are putting in place the Work programme, the biggest single welfare-to-work programme this country has ever seen, which will give unemployed people unprecedented levels of personal support to get them into the workplace. The benefit cap supports our plans to make work pay as when someone in a household enters work and begins to receive working tax credit they will be exempt from the new measure.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance for vulnerable families.

Welfare State: Reform

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on conditionality measures in the Welfare Reform Bill, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of lone parents who will enter work in each year to 2015-16 and *(b)* the average number of hours a lone parent will work in each such year. [46383]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

(a) The June 2010 Budget announced the requirement for lone parents to prepare for and seek work as a condition of receiving benefits would be extended from those with a youngest child aged seven or over, to those with a youngest child aged five or over. We estimated in the recent impact assessment, "Conditionality Measures in the 2011 Welfare Reform Bill", that the change will help 20,000 to 25,000 extra lone parents into work in steady state—with around an extra 10,000 lone parents in work after the first full year; around an extra 20,000 after the second year; and up to 25,000 in steady state.

(b) There are a number of flexibilities for lone parents regarding job search requirements that can reflect different personal circumstances affecting availability for work. For example, lone parents may limit the hours they are available for work to a minimum of 16 hours a week subject to their childcare arrangements. They may also restrict their availability for work to their children's normal school hours if any of their children are aged 12 or under.

We expect that lone parents will base their working pattern around their personal circumstances and child care arrangements. For this impact assessment, we assumed that the majority of lone parents entering work as a result of the policy change will enter work at part-time around an average of 18 hours a week, with less than a third of lone parents entering work at full-time around an average of 38 hours a week. This assumption was made based on evidence from the Household Annual Population Survey.

Universal credit from 2013-14 will carry forward the same conditionality arrangements for lone parents. The above does not take account of behavioural effects arising from other aspects of universal credit, for example from the operation of the disregard and taper.

Winter Fuel Payments

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing a change to winter fuel allowances to cease making payments to British citizens living abroad. [50424]

Steve Webb: European Union law means that some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people when they move to another country within the European economic area.

Winter fuel payments are only paid to former UK residents living in the European economic area or Switzerland if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

In winter 2009-10 we made around 70,000 payments at a cost of around £15 million to people living outside the UK and in the EEA. This is less than 1% of the total annual expenditure on winter fuel payments.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 6 December 2010 on work placement pay; [49685]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 18 August 2010 on behalf of his constituent Mr Russell James on reform of the public sector; [49686]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 22 July 2010 on behalf of his constituent Mr Keith Richardson on intrusive and unnecessary laws; [49687]

(4) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 15 June 2010 on behalf of his constituent Mr Christopher Bunker on intrusive and unnecessary laws; [49691]

(5) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 15 June 2010 on behalf of his constituent Jenny Hall on the Protection of Freedoms Bill; [49692]

(6) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 16 July 2010 on behalf of his constituent Mr David Love on the statutory requirement for schools to hold acts of daily collective worship. [49693]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I answered my hon. Friend's correspondence today.

TRANSPORT

Shipping: Oil

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made on its consultation on ship-to-ship oil transfers. [49963]

Mike Penning: I am considering the representations which have been made and shall take a decision at the earliest opportunity.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Devolution: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 111W, on devolution: Northern Ireland, for what reason no meetings have taken place. [50249]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* Meetings have not taken place between the special advisers of the Secretary of State and representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive and other organisations in Northern Ireland as there have been no meeting requests. Officials of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have regular dialogue with the Northern Ireland Executive and other Northern Irish bodies, including meetings that were attended by DECC's board-level devolution champion in Belfast on 10 and 11 March 2011 on a wide range of energy and climate change matters. Northern Ireland Executive officials also sit on several DECC steering groups.

Energy: Housing

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department had had with energy companies on their role in informing consumers about the Green Deal. [50555]

Gregory Barker: The Department has been working closely with energy companies, developing their role to collect Green Deal payments from customers and exploring the potential opportunities for them as Green Deal providers. We are also working on an agreement with the larger energy companies for them to provide promotional material about the Green Deal to their customers at key trigger points, for example when moving into a new property or switching energy supplier.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the number of third generation nuclear reactors that are in operation around the world. [50258]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not hold specific information on the number of third generation nuclear plants in operation around the world.

A number of other organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Nuclear Association maintain lists of such information that is easily accessed on the internet:

www.iaea.org

and

www.world-nuclear.org

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has assessed the suitability of boiling water nuclear reactors for deployment in the UK. [50259]

Charles Hendry: The safety, security and environmental aspects of nuclear reactor designs proposed for deployment in the UK are assessed by the UK's nuclear regulators as part of their site licensing and permitting processes.

Regulators have recently assessed a number of reactor designs as part of their generic design assessment (GDA) process. One design, the GE-Hitachi ESBWR is an evolution of earlier boiling water reactors. Assessment of the economic simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) within the GDA process ceased in September 2008 when GE-Hitachi requested a temporary suspension of work.

No boiling water reactor designs are currently being assessed for the UK.

Information on the regulators' assessment findings, including interim technical reports and quarterly updates can be found on their website:

www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has asked UK Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide an independent report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid-May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be published in the public domain.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of boiling water nuclear reactor designs. [50260]

Charles Hendry: The safety, security and environmental aspects of nuclear reactor designs proposed for deployment in the UK are assessed by the UK's nuclear regulators as part of their site licensing and permitting processes.

Regulators have recently assessed a number of reactor designs as part of their generic design assessment process (GDA). One design, the GE-Hitachi economic simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) is an evolution of earlier boiling water reactors. Assessment of the ESBWR within the GDA ceased in September 2008 when GE-Hitachi requested a temporary suspension of work.

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He has asked for an interim report by mid-May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be published in the public domain.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications of the situation in Japan for his energy policy. [49930]

Charles Hendry: The International Atomic Energy Agency integrated regulatory review service—IRRS—recently noted that the UK has a mature and transparent regulatory system, an advanced review process, and highly trained, expert and experienced nuclear inspectors. Nevertheless, we take the recent unprecedented events in Japan extremely seriously, and the Secretary of State has asked the chief nuclear inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

The coalition Government's plans clearly envisage an important role for nuclear and unless Dr Weightman's report gives us any particular reason to reassess that, I see no reason why that should not remain our view. We aim to bring the first new nuclear on stream for 2018. When people visit the departmental website, they can access a pathways model called "My2050", which allows them to see the effort that would have to be made if we did not have nuclear. We would have to make enormously greater efforts on both renewables and carbon capture and storage. That is physically possible, but the costs would be very substantial.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of inherent passive safety systems in nuclear reactor design. [50117]

Charles Hendry: The safety, security and environmental aspects of nuclear reactor designs proposed for deployment in the UK are assessed by the UK's nuclear regulators as part of their site licensing and permitting processes.

Regulators have recently assessed a number of reactor designs as part of their Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process. A number of these designs incorporate either full or partial passive safety systems. Which are assessed against publicised safety principles within the GDA process.

Information on the regulators assessment findings, including interim technical reports and quarterly updates can be found on their website

www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors

The Secretary of State has asked UK Chief Nuclear Inspector Dr Mike Weightman to provide an independent report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid-May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be published in the public domain.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of core damage frequency for the *(a)* GE Hitachi (i) Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor and (ii) Advanced Boiling Water Reactor, *(b)* Westinghouse AP1000 and *(c)* Areva European Pressurised Reactor; and what assessment he has made of the implications of those figures for reactor safety. [50261]

Charles Hendry: The safety, security and environmental aspects of nuclear reactor designs proposed for deployment in the UK are assessed by the UK's nuclear regulators as part of their site licensing and permitting processes.

Regulators have recently assessed a number of reactor designs as part of their generic design assessment (GDA) process. This assessment has included an appraisal of the calculated core damage frequencies on the Westinghouse AP1000 and AREVA EPR. The GE-Hitachi ESBWR voluntarily suspended assessment in September 2008 and the ABWR was not put forward to the GDA process, as such no core damage frequency assessment has been undertaken by regulators on these two reactors.

Information on the regulators assessment findings, including interim technical reports and quarterly updates can be found on their website:

www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has asked UK Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide an independent report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry.

He has asked for an interim report by mid-May 2011 and a final report within six months. The reports will be published in the public domain.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department published the trigger for the fast-track solar photovoltaic feed-in tariff review; and if he will make a statement. [46442]

Gregory Barker: At the time of the spending review in 2010 we said that the first review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme would take place as planned in 2012, taking effect in April 2013, unless higher than expected deployment triggered an early review. Since then feedback from industry has indicated that solar PV system costs are now 30% lower than assumed in the original modelling undertaken before the start of the scheme and that there would be higher than expected deployment of larger scale solar PV. This has resulted in the risk that the FITs budget would be exceeded and triggers an early review.

The decision to begin a comprehensive review early allows us to deal with issues such as the fast falling cost of solar PV, enabling us to safeguard FITs funding for small scale installations for domestic customers, schools, community groups and small businesses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the political situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina. [49135]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has raised his concerns about the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in several recent bilateral meetings with European counterparts, and at both the February and March Foreign Affairs Councils.

The Secretary of State has made clear his strong concerns about the current negative political atmosphere and has highlighted the need for rapid progress on government formation and on implementation of key EU-related reforms.

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 367W, on the European Court of Human Rights, whether the UK's representative at the High Level Conference will address the conference; and if he will place in the Library a copy of representations the Government has made to the Council of Europe on reform of the European Court of Human Rights since May 2010. [50273]

Mr Lidington: The UK will be represented by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), who will address the meeting. The Government have participated actively in a number of discussions within the Council of Europe on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights since May 2010. This has not involved the submission of formal written representations on this issue.

Latvia: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on levels of anti-Semitism in Latvia since July 2010; what discussions he has had with the government of Latvia about anti-Semitism in Latvia since that date; and if he will make a statement. [50301]

Mr Lidington: We have not received any reports of anti-Semitism in Latvia since July 2010, nor have we engaged the Latvian Government on the issue during this period.

Libya: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on charging *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals who used recent flights chartered by his Department from Libya. [48963]

Alistair Burt: The Department's policy is not to charge either British or non-British nationals using flights chartered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from Libya. In an evacuation, the Government cover the cost of transport out of the affected country if there are no commercial means available.

Security: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution he plans to make to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' informal meeting of the Drafting Group of the Istanbul Declaration on 7 April 2011; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations the Government has made on this declaration. [50272]

Mr Lidington: The UK will contribute fully to ensure that the draft declaration reflects our vision of the Council of Europe as an organisation focussed on the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

I will place in the Library a copy of the UK's statement in Istanbul when it is available.

USA: Cotton

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 694W, on the USA: cotton, what the US ambassador's response was to Lord Brittan's representations; what steps he plans to take in respect of US cotton subsidies as a result of that response; and if he will make a statement. [49698]

Mr O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The US ambassador responded that there were opponents to cotton reform in the Senate and that what could be agreed would depend on the overall Doha Development Agenda (DDA). We will continue to press the US bilaterally on this issue. It remains clear that a successful conclusion of the DDA will be the best route for reform of cotton subsidies.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings he expects to result from the abolition of the (i) UK Film Council and (ii) Museum, Libraries and Archives Council. [48795]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* The costs and benefits arising from the reforms to the UK Film Council and Museums, Libraries and Archives Council are subject to ongoing analysis and while we expect they will generate administrative savings, no figures can be provided at this stage.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £140 million bilateral aid allocated for Sudan in the Bilateral Aid review will be apportioned between north and south Sudan. [50732]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The focus of the Bilateral Aid Review is on achieving results to transform the lives of poor people. As poverty indicators are generally worse in the south of Sudan, approximately 65% of our funding (around £90 million) will be focused there. Over the next four years key results we intend to achieve include 240,000 more children completing primary school (20% more than today), 1 million more people achieving food security, and over 750,000 people benefiting from treatment or prevention of malaria.

Approximately 35% of our funding (around £50 million) will be focused on the north of Sudan. Results we aim to deliver there include clean drinking water or sanitation for 800,000 people, access to justice for 250,000 people, and life-saving health and nutrition support to up to 4 million people in areas of humanitarian need, notably in Darfur.

TREASURY

EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council Meeting

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what agreements were made on climate finance at the EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council meeting on 15 March 2011. [50029]

Justine Greening: The EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 14-15 March 2011 adopted Council Conclusions on climate finance.

The conclusions welcomed the outcome of the international negotiations in Cancun, including the decision to establish a Green Climate Fund; reaffirmed climate finance commitments made by EU member states to provide €7.2 billion cumulatively over the period 2010-12 to fast start finance and to report on its climate finance contributions.

The full text of the conclusions can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/119891_pdf

Fuel Duty: Public Expenditure

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Table 2.1 on page 42 of Budget 2011, what the estimated cost to the Exchequer is of *(a)* the reduction of fuel duty by one penny per litre from 23 March 2011, *(b)* the removal of previously announced above retail prices index increases in fuel duty and *(c)* the delay of retail prices index increases in each year between 2011-12 and 2015-16. [50368]

Justine Greening: The 1p per litre fuel duty reduction, the removal of the previous Administration's fuel duty escalator and the delay of RPI increases are costed in table 2.1 of Budget 2011 at: -£1,900 million in 2011-12; -£1,600 million in 2012-13; -£1,700 million in 2013-14; -£2,100 million in 2014-15.

Oil: Prices

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on requirements for oil, gas and mining companies based in the UK to disclose payments made in other countries in which they operate. [49971]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* As the Chancellor made clear at the G20 Finance Minister's meeting in February 2011, the Government support the development of new international rules to require oil, gas and mining companies to report the payments they make to Governments. The UK will be seeking to make progress on this issue both in the G20 and at the EU.

Taxation

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent representations he has received on proposals for *(a)* a financial activities tax and *(b)* a financial transactions tax; [50524]

(2) what discussions he has had with his *(a)* French and *(b)* German counterpart on the prospects for (i) a financial activities tax and (ii) a financial transactions tax; [50525]

(3) whether he has tasked a team in his Department with investigating the feasibility of a financial activities tax. [50526]

Justine Greening: As set out in the June 2010 Budget, the Government are exploring the costs and benefits of a financial activities tax with international partners and are continuing to monitor developments in this area. There have been discussions at ECOFIN about financial activities taxes and financial transactions taxes. The European Commission issued a communication on taxation of the financial sector in October 2010, and is currently running a consultation exercise as part of its impact assessment work, which it is due to publish later this year. In addition, the Government of France holds the presidency of the G20 for 2011, and has stated that it will bring forward discussions on financial transactions taxes.

The Government have received representations on various aspects of financial sector taxation from a wide range of interested parties. In August 2010, the Government issued a statement on financial taxation, available at:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/robin_hood_tax.htm

Telephone Services

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the opening hours of the Debt Management Telephone Centre unit of HM Revenue and Customs will be on *(a)* Friday 22 April, *(b)* Sunday 24 April and *(c)* Monday 25 April 2011; [50450]

(2) whether staff of the Debt Management Telephone Centre unit of HM Revenue and Customs will be *(a)* making outbound calls to collect debts and *(b)* taking incoming calls during its hours of operation on (i) Friday 22 April, (ii) Sunday 24 April and (iii) Monday 25 April 2011. [50451]

Justine Greening: HMRC's Debt Management and Telephone Centre will be closed on Friday 22 April, open on Sunday 24 April from 8 am to 4 pm and closed on Monday 25 April 2011.

Staff contracted to work on Sunday 24 April will be handling inbound calls as a priority, with some opportunity for outbound calls to those who have failed to respond to HMRC's written demands for payment.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from which domestic regulations he proposes to exempt micro-businesses and start-ups in the next three years as a result of the moratorium introduced in the 2011 Budget. [49419]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* All micro and start-up businesses will be exempted from new domestic regulation in the three-year moratorium from 1 April 2011, apart from in exceptional instances where there is a compelling argument against exemption. A decision has been made that the abolition of default retirement age will continue as planned for all businesses. Any breach of the moratorium will require the consent of both the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State, and the Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date his Department informed *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local enterprise partnerships of the criteria for the establishment of enterprise zones. [50580]

Mr Prisk: The Secretaries of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and for Communities and Local Government wrote to local enterprise partnerships on 24 March 2011 with regard to the Budget announcement on enterprise zones. The prospectus that accompanied their letter and which is available on the DCLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/enterprisezone

explained the bidding process that will be put in place to identify a second wave of enterprise zones.

Local enterprise partnerships interested in bidding for an enterprise zone are being asked to submit short expressions of interest during April. Once those expressions of interest have been received, the Government will write to all interested local enterprise partnerships with the criteria against which detailed bids will be assessed. Final bids will be expected by the end of June. Those local authorities and businesses not currently covered by a local enterprise partnership will be able to bid to host an enterprise zone if their proposals to form a local enterprise partnership are approved before the deadline for bids. The prospectus already provides partnerships with an indication of the sorts of issues that they will want to consider in compiling a bid.

Enterprise Zones: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to allocate to enterprise zones in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [50582]

Mr Prisk: At the Budget, the Government announced that businesses in enterprise zones would receive business rate discounts of up to 100% for five years. These discounts are subject to European Union state aid rules and are worth up to £275,000 over a five-year period for each business. The Government estimate the overall cost of this tax support to be approximately £125 million over the spending review period.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of bids submitted to the first round of the Regional Growth Fund in each *(a)* Government office region and *(b)* local enterprise partnership. [50647]

Mr Prisk: 464 bids to the value of £2.78 billion have been received in round 1 of regional growth fund (RGF). The following tables gives details on the monetary value of bids submitted by each Government region and Local Enterprise Partnership area.

Region	*£ million*
East Midlands	241
East of England	132
London	270
North East	338
North West	577
South East	186
South West	176
West Midlands	459
Yorkshire and the Humber	402

LEP area	*£ million*
Birmingham and Solihull with East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth LEP	152
Brighton and Hove, Croydon, the Gatwick Diamond and West Sussex—Coast to Capital LEP	14
Cheshire and Warrington LEP	94
Coventry and Warwickshire LEP	139

LEP area	*£ million*
Cumbria LEP	40
Empowering Enterprise—Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP	57
Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP	24
Greater Manchester LEP	185
Hertfordshire LEP	[1]—
Kent-Essex LEP	128
Leeds City Region LEP	154
Leicester and Leicestershire LEP	34
Lincolnshire LEP	24
Liverpool City Region LEP	198
New Anglia LEP	42
North Eastern LE	203
Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby, Derbyshire LEP	112
Oxfordshire City Region LEP	[1]—
Sheffield City Region LEP	223
Solent LEP	47
South East Midlands LEP	108
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP	55
Tees Valley LEP	136
Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	[1]—
The Black Country LEP	32
The Marches Enterprise Partnership—Shropshire and Herefordshire LEP	44
West of England LEP	39
Worcestershire LEP	42

[1] Amount redacted as it may risk disclosure of applicants.

Note:

Bids have been allocated to LEPs by their location in response to Q2 of the application and should not be taken as an indication that the LEP has endorsed the bid.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the number of children *(a)* in total and *(b)* who had been trafficked who went missing from local government care in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [50469]

Andrew Stunell: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Home Office and Department for Education to discuss a range of matters. Policies on trafficking, children who go missing and children in care mainly fall under the responsibility of the Home Office and Department for Education.

We are working closely with them on related policies such as the young runaways project and homelessness. For example, the Home Office and Department for Education are represented on the cross-Government Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness. In addition, the Department for Communities and Local Government is represented on the senior officials group overseeing cross-government work on missing persons.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* whole-time firefighter, *(b)* retained firefighter, *(c)* fire control room and *(d)* total posts there were in each Fire and Rescue Service in England on 1 April 2010; and how many posts in each category there were on 1 April 2011. [50257]

Robert Neill: The numbers of posts on 31 March 2010 in each Fire and Rescue Service in England are shown in the following table. Figures for 31 March 2011 are due to be submitted over the coming months and to be published in August.

Fire and rescue service posts in England at 31 March 2010[1]

Fire and rescue authorities	*Whole-time*	*Retained duty system*[2,3]	*Fire control*	*Total (including support staff)*
England	30,053	13,712	1,475	54,308
Avon	684	216	33	1,078
Bedfordshire[4]	305	128	27	594
Berkshire	418	156	34	753
Buckinghamshire	357	238	23	749
Cambridgeshire[4]	271	379	35	845
Cheshire	529	387	26	1,198
Cleveland	522	69	33	753
Cornwall	206	425	15	740
Cumbria	255	480	21	855
Derbyshire	460	360	26	1,009
Devon and Somerset	719	1,207	45	2,220
Dorset	295	356	21	801
Durham	388	168	26	683
East Sussex	427	259	26	873
Essex	967	450	43	1,710
Gloucestershire	212	306	20	621
Greater London	5,866	0	118	7,104
Greater Manchester	1,888	42	69	2,555
Hampshire	774	676	38	1,806
Hereford and Worcester	329	369	25	865
Hertfordshire	569	264	29	1,014
Humberside	631	376	28	1,234
Isle of Wight	76	136	13	248
Isles of Scilly	11	39	0	51
Kent	879	716	42	1,914
Lancashire	878	318	45	1,532
Leicestershire	486	193	41	879
Lincolnshire	239	495	32	864
Merseyside	947	67	42	1,465
Norfolk	305	530	27	993
North Yorkshire	325	392	25	834
Northamptonshire	288	279	26	695
Northumberland	202	155	18	451
Nottinghamshire	569	252	31	1,038
Oxfordshire	246	328	22	655

Fire and rescue service posts in England at 31 March 2010[1]

Fire and rescue authorities	*Whole-time*	*Retained duty system*[2,3]	*Fire control*	*Total (including support staff)*
Shropshire	223	343	17	664
South Yorkshire	831	121	42	1,269
Staffordshire	461	454	33	1,120
Suffolk[4]	249	504	24	857
Surrey	626	144	25	895
Tyne and Wear	885	24	38	1,243
Warwickshire	269	123	20	490
West Midlands	1,898	0	46	2,444
West Sussex	394	310	32	861
West Yorkshire	1,467	177	53	2,127
Wiltshire	228	303	22	659

[1] In full-time equivalents (FTEs) except retained duty system firefighters in 24 hour units of cover.

[2] In 24-hour units of cover.

[3] No retained duty system firefighters are recruited in London and West Midlands.

[4] Estimates.

Source:

Annual Returns to DCLG

Local Government Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on formula grant funding to each local authority of allowing such authorities to retain the receipts from business rates. [49794]

Robert Neill: As part of the Local Government Resource Review's consideration of options for allowing local authorities to retain business rates, we will be assessing the impact of a range of issues, including the potential impact on local authorities' funding. In due course, we will publish the conclusions of the review. The terms of the review are clear that any change must protect the interests of local taxpayers and the vulnerable, be fair for all councils, and encourage growth. Councils which are more deprived will continue to receive central Government support.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether bullet-proof vests are available to all UK combat troops in Afghanistan. [50382]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence issues troops with personal protective equipment which provides degrees of ballistic protection against a range of threats. All UK troops deploying to Afghanistan are issued with enhanced combat body armour as a minimum. Mk 4 Osprey body armour is available to all troops whose role requires it.

Air Force: Redundancy

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the likely number of Royal Air Force personnel to be made redundant at Royal Air Force Valley as part of the programme announced on 1 March 2011. [49932]

Mr Robathan: Between 1 March and 14 April 2011 RAF personnel within certain trades and branches are invited to apply for redundancy following the announcement of the RAF Redundancy Programme Tranche One. All personnel selected for redundancy will be informed of the decision on 1 September 2011.

Consequently, it is too soon to make an assessment on the number of likely redundancies at a particular location within the RAF.

Defence: International Co-operation

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether training for the France-UK bi-national rapid reaction force has begun; and if he will make a statement. [49906]

Mr Gerald Howarth: We confirmed at last year's bilateral summit that we would develop a Combined Joint Expeditionary Force with France. It will foster closer links between our armed forces, and improve their ability to deploy together on operations in the future. It will not involve standing forces.

There are a number of bilateral exercises scheduled to take place with French armed forces this year, aimed at increasing the levels of interoperability between our armed forces.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on departmental theft, what the policy of his Department is on monitoring *(a)* (i) eBay, (ii) Amazon and (iii) other online trading sites and *(b)* (i) Loot and (ii) other classified advertising publications in order to recover stolen property. [50527]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) police uses proactive intelligence-led initiatives to identify and detect thefts of MOD property, and those involved in the unlawful disposal of stolen Defence property, by monitoring internet trading sites and other markets, and then taking appropriate law enforcement action. This approach has proved successful in tracking potential stolen MOD property and those who seek to dispose of it, with arrests, convictions and property recovery.

European Defence Agency

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his officials have had with their French counterparts on the future of the European Defence Agency since May 2010. [49907]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Defence Ministers and officials routinely discuss matters concerning the future of the European Defence Agency both multilaterally and bilaterally with our French counterparts.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the European Defence Agency; and if he will make a statement. [49909]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave on 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 453W, to the hon. Member for St Austell and Newquay (Stephen Gilbert) and on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 659, to the Second Church Estates Commissioner, the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry).

Foreign Relations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his officials have met their French counterparts since May 2010. [49908]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The information is as follows:

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Fox) met the French Defence Minister on: 10 June 2010; 18 June 2010; 3 September 2010; 14 October 2010; 2 November 2010; 20 November 2010; 12 January 2011; and 10 March 2011.

The Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff) met his French counterpart on: 17 June 2010; 19 July 2010; 18 October 2010 and 16 March 2010.

The Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Mr Robathan) met his French counterpart on 18 June 2010.

I met the French Defence Minister at the EU Defence Ministers' meetings on 9 December 2010 and 24 February 2011.

Other members of the Ministry of Defence routinely meet with representatives of the French Ministry of Defence. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CABINET OFFICE

Average Earnings: Statistics

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will request the Office for National Statistics to facilitate public access to the underlying data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provided to the Department for Communities and Local Government as the basis for the area cost adjustment calculations in West Sussex, redacting personal data where necessary to assist disclosure; [50645]

(2) by what procedure an individual may become an approved researcher to access the data underlying the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings prepared by the Office for National Statistics; and how many applications for such status have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in the last 24 months. [50646]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking:

1: to facilitate public access to the underlying data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provided to the Department for Communities and Local Government as the basis for the area cost adjustment calculations in West Sussex redacting personal data where necessary to assist disclosure (50645) and

2: by what procedure an individual may become an approved researcher to access the data underlying the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings prepared by the Office for National Statistics; and how many applications for such statistics have been (a) approved and (b) rejected in the last 24 months. (50646)

Answer to question one

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) data are collected under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947. Section 9 of this Act states that unless consent has been obtained, data collected under the Act that may identify an individual unit may only be made available to Government Departments in possession of a 'direction from the Minister'. The legislation states that the data may be released to the Government Department for the performance of any of its functions. Under this Act, those Government Departments without a 'ministerial direction' are not allowed access.

The Statistics and Registration Service Act, 2007, allows for increased sharing of data between ONS and other Government Departments, subject to agreement by Parliament on a case by case basis. The Act ensures that ONS can still use the existing gateways for access to ASHE microdata. It also promotes further statistical research by the addition of an additional gateway - Approved Researcher.

The Approved Researcher is the only gateway available for those without a ministerial direction to access ASHE microdata. Approved Researcher status is for named individuals only and applies to a specific project. It does not open a gateway to all data for any purpose. Currently Approved Researchers can only gain access to ASHE data at ONS sites. This is likely to be extended in the near future so that Approved Researchers can access ASHE from a Secure Data Centre, at university buildings via secure computer terminals.

The production of a redacted version of the data would render them unsuitable for the purposes stated. Given the nature of the information provided under trust to ONS, it would be necessary to use a coarse recoding methodology to prevent the identification, or self-identification, of an individual from a public use data set. The methodology employed in the area cost adjustment calculations requires detailed individual record information that would be lost as a consequence of the recoding required to prevent disclosure.

Answer to question two

The Statistics and Registration Service Act requires that the criteria for becoming an Approved Researcher are published. The criteria and assessment procedure can be found on the 'Access to Data' pages of the Office for National Statistics website:

www.ons.gov.uk/about/who-we-are/our-services/unpublished-data/access-to-ons-data-service/index.html

Only the information in the application is used for the decision to make an applicant an Approved Researcher, although for less experienced applicants a reference may be sought from their PhD supervisor. Any individual can become an Approved Researcher provided they meet both the criteria for personal competence to use confidential data securely, and the criteria for statistical research purposes.

In the last 24 months 32 statistical researchers have met the criteria and have been made Approved Researchers for access to the confidential Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings dataset. The researchers are working on 19 statistical research inquiries. All of these statistical researchers have used the ASHE dataset within a statistical research laboratory facility on an ONS site. No statistical researcher that has submitted an application has been rejected.

Cancer: Death

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many patients died from cancer in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency and *(b)* Bolton borough in the last five years. [50550]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many patients died from cancer in (a) Bolton South East constituency and (b) Bolton borough in the last five years. (50550)

The following tables provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was cancer in (a) Bolton South East parliamentary constituency (Table 1) and (b) Bolton metropolitan district (Table 2), for the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death.

Table 1. Number of deaths where the underlying cause was cancer, Bolton South East parliamentary constituency, 2005-09[1, 2, 3]

	Deaths (persons)
2005	262
2006	244
2007	248
2008	254
2009	218

[1] Cause of death was defined using the international Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths where the underlying cause was cancer, Bolton metropolitan district, 2005-09[1, 2, 3]

	Deaths (persons)
2005	704
2006	661
2007	672
2008	612
2009	621

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Deaths: Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths in the Pendle area were *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug-related in each of the last five years; and how many of those who died were aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years. [50964]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2001:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many deaths in the Pendle area were (a) alcohol and (b) drug related in each of the last five years; and how many of those who died were aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years. (50964)

The following tables provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was (a) alcohol-related (Table 1) and (b) drug poisoning (Table 2), for persons aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years, in Pendle local authority, for the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Figures for alcohol-related deaths in the UK, England and Wales, and government office regions are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496

Figures for deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales by sex, age, cause and substance involved are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11695

Table 1. Number of deaths where the underlying cause of death was alcohol-related, Pendle local authority, 2005 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Persons

Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0
18-24	0	0	0	0	0
25-40	1	2	4	3	0
Over 40	9	8	10	8	16
Total	10	10	14	11	16

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific conditions which are included in the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1 as follows.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Table 2. Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death, Pendle local authority, 2005 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Persons

Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 18	0	0	0	1	0
18-24	0	2	1	0	0
25-40	2	1	4	1	3

Table 2. Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death, Pendle local authority, 2005 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Persons

Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Over 40	4	5	4	2	5
Total	6	8	9	4	8

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The ICD-10 codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 2 as follows.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 2. ICD-10 codes for deaths related to drug poisoning

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish central government guidance issued to Ministers on modes of transport to use whilst on government business. [50093]

Mr Maude: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance to Ministers on travel. A copy of the Ministerial Code is available in the Library of the House.

Government Departments: Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what training is offered by the National School of Government for senior responsible owners; and how many senior responsible owners have completed such training in each of the last three years. [45664]

Mr Maude: During the last three years, the National School of Government has not offered an open programme of training for senior responsible owners.

The school has delivered the senior responsible owner masterclass as a single client product to various departments and organisations. In the last three years, the following numbers have attended this masterclass:

2010-11: 20

2009-10: 88

2008-09: 149

The National School also offers courses on programme and project management which cover SRO responsibilities.

Following the Review of Public Bodies, I confirmed in a written statement to the House that the National School of Government would no longer be a non-ministerial department. The functions of the School will transfer into the Cabinet Office from 1 April. Further decisions about the school, its staff and sites are expected in due course.

From April, training and development across Government Departments in leadership, management and the core skills expected of every civil servant should have will be sourced through Civil Service Learning.

New Businesses: Middlesbrough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many business start-ups there were in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year of the last Parliament; and how many such start-ups there have been since the May 2010 general election. [50982]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many business start-ups there were in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year of the last parliament; and how many such start-ups there have been since the May 2010 General Election. [50982]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births from 2005 to 2009 in the constituency of Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication in December 2011.

Table showing enterprises births in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland 2005-09

	Births
2005	220
2006	200
2007	325
2008	235
2009	200

Public Bodies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 838W, if he will publish the departmental estimates that were collated to arrive at the stated estimates of savings.[1] [50289]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* On the 16 March 2011, I announced that we estimate that cumulative administrative savings of £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The departmental estimates that were collated to arrive at that figure are:

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1. *[Official Report, 5 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 3MC.]*

Department	*Estimated overall administrative savings from public bodies over SR period (£ million)*
BIS	882.00
CO	9.71
CLG	168.62
Local government public bodies	60.54
DCMS	206.35
DEFRA	269.51
DfE	673.88
DH	67.00
MoJ (inc AGO)	86.46
HO	132.00
GEO	37.16
MoD	1.59
DfT	21.59
DWP	17.95
Total	2,634.36

I also announced that when reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, we estimate that total spending through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15, a cumulative amount of £30 billion over the spending review period. The breakdown of these figures by Department was announced as part of the spending review settlements.

Unemployment: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in Pendle constituency. [50963]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of workless households in Pendle constituency. (50963).

Estimates of the number of workless households are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2009. However, due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates because the sample sizes for this survey are not sufficiently large enough for the Pendle constituency.

EDUCATION

Academies: Complaints

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to the development of an alternative parental complaints mechanism following the abolition of the Young Persons Learning Agency so as to ensure that academies are not required to use their resources defending litigation claims for want of an effective statutory complaints process. [49579]

Mr Gibb: Academies are regulated through a funding agreement with the Secretary of State that sets out the obligations placed upon them in return for the funding they are granted. Those obligations include requirements covering a number of areas such as curriculum and assessment, admissions and exclusions. The Secretary of State is responsible for ensuring that the terms of an academy's funding agreement are met. That includes considering complaints from parents about matters covered within the funding agreement to decide whether there has been a breach of the funding agreement by the academy. At the moment, the YPLA considers those complaints on behalf of the Secretary of State. When the YPLA is abolished, the responsibility for handling complaints will return to the Department for Education, either within the relevant policy directorate or a future executive agency.

Academies: Finance

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when he expects his Department's review of academy funding for 2011-12 to begin; and what the objectives of that review will be; [25507]

(2) whether he expects consideration of funding provision for children with low incidence special educational needs undertaken as part of the review of academy funding for 2011-12 to be completed before the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011 come into force. [25508]

Mr Gibb: On academy funding in 2011/12, the Department consulted interested parties via the Academy Funding Sub-Group of the School Funding Implementation Group. The aim of the review was to consider the methodology for the future funding of academies for academic year 2011/12 and to identify any issues that needed to be considered for the academic year 2012/13 and beyond. The consultation was intended to inform Ministers and was reflected in the School Funding Settlement announced in December 2010.

The group considered whether funding for children with special educational needs (SEN) should still be part of the local authority central spend equivalent grant. Furthermore, the Government have listened to the concerns expressed by groups which support children with SEN. Therefore we will not be recovering funding for SEN support services in relation to academies from local authorities in the 2011-12 financial year. We wrote to local authorities on 9 February 2011 to confirm that they do not need to reduce funding for these services as a result of schools converting to academy status. Funding for the individually assigned resources specified in a child's statement will continue to be paid directly from local authorities to academies.

The School Finance (England) Regulations 2011 came into force on 15 March 2011 and can be viewed at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/371/introduction/made

Brook Advisory Centres

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) Brook Advisory Centres and (ii) the Family Planning Association since May 2010; what issues were discussed; whether a note was made of each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [48873]

Sarah Teather: There have been no individual meetings between the Secretary of State for Education, or other DfE Ministers, and officials from either Brook or FPA.

I have, however, met both Simon Blake (Chief Executive of Brook) and Julie Bentley (Chief Executive of FPA) on a number of occasions:

> First, at meetings of the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group (TPIAG)—which both were members of—in September and December 2010; and
>
> Secondly, when they attended a briefing event I hosted in July 2010, with a number of other stakeholders that support young people on issues related to sexual health and substance misuse.

There was no note of the July briefing event, but its purpose was to hear the views of key stakeholders on how best to help young people to avoid: unplanned pregnancies and STIs; and the harms resulting from drugs, smoking and alcohol.

At the TPIAG meeting in September 2010, the main topic of discussion was how services could better support boys and young men with regard to sex, relationships and sexual health. At its December meeting, TPIAG presented its final report to me, a copy of which is available at:

http://education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/Past%20successes%20-%20future%20challenges.pdf

Class Sizes: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average class size of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Berkshire, (ii) Reading and (iii) Reading West constituency is. [49772]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the table. Berkshire was reorganised in 1998, so information has been provided for the six local authorities that Berkshire was divided into.

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: Classes as taught[3] January 2010

	Average class size	
	Maintained primary[1]	*State-funded secondary[1,2]*
Bracknell Forest	27.1	20.3
Windsor and Maidenhead	25.4	19.8
West Berkshire	25.6	18.7
Reading	27.0	19.3
Slough	28.2	19.4
Wokingham	26.1	18.9
Reading West	26.8	18.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
Source:
School Census

Education Business Partnerships: Finance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for funding education business partnership services in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [37905]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* Funding for education business partnership services (EBPs) will not continue in financial year 2011-12.

We have made clear that priority for education expenditure would be on front line services in schools; funding for EBPs does not come within that category. In future, it will be for schools to decide whether or not to buy in services from education business partnership organisations (EBPOs) locally. EBPOs will need to ensure they are offering a high quality service if schools are going to be persuaded to buy their services, and having the Award for Education Business Excellence will signify that.

English Baccalaureate

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the English Baccalaureate; and if he will make a statement. [49694]

Mr Gibb: The inclusion of the English Baccalaureate measure in the 2010 performance tables has already had a positive impact on GCSE choices in schools. It forms a key part of our plans to raise aspirations and increase academic attainment in secondary schools.

Health Education: Sex

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings he has had to discuss sex and relationship education since May 2010; and which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations attended each such meeting. [34068]

Mr Gibb: As my hon. Friend will recall, he met the Secretary of State for Education on 8 February 2011 with the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr Jackson), the hon. Member for Chelsea and Fulham (Greg Hands) and the hon. Member for Suffolk Coastal (Dr Coffey) to discuss sex and relationships education. The Secretary of State has had no further meetings on this subject.

The Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", sets out the Government's intention to work with teachers, parents, faith groups and campaign groups such as Stonewall to make sure sex and relationships education encompasses an understanding of the ways in which humans love each other and stresses the importance of respecting individual autonomy.

Schools: Drugs

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what educational materials, other than information produced by Frank, warning of the dangers attached to drug use his Department supplies to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement; [50031]

(2) what methods his Department is using to deliver classroom-based drug prevention programmes in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [50057]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* All schools should teach pupils about the effects of drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and medicines) through the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) and as part of the statutory National Curriculum for Science. The Department's guidance, 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)', makes clear that drug education should start in primary schools and outlines the issues that should be covered in all key stages, having regard to the age and maturity of the pupils concerned. As part of their drug education, pupils should learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take more responsibility for their actions. The guidance is available at:

www.education.gov.uk/publications

We are committed to giving schools greater freedoms and flexibility, so we leave it to them to decide how they teach these basic requirements and what resources they use to support their teaching. For this reason, we do not promote, endorse or supply any educational materials to be used. We believe it is important that schools have the flexibility to use their professional judgment in such matters so that they can take account of the views of parents and the needs of pupils, as well as of the ethos of the school.

Science: Education

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to promote the teaching of science in schools. [49146]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', highlights the Government's commitment to promoting the teaching of science in schools by improving the skills of existing teachers and increasing the number of specialist subject teachers of science. The Government have taken steps to improve teacher supply and Initial Teacher Training designed to promote the teaching of science. These include expanding Teach First, and offering financial incentives to attract the very best graduates and talented career changers to become teachers in shortage subjects, like physics and chemistry. Inclusion of science in the new English Baccalaureate will help reinforce the importance of science education.

We plan to announce what further support will be made available to promote science teaching in schools in due course.

Secondary Education: Work Experience

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to increase the number of students in secondary schools participating in high-quality work experience. [40678]

Mr Gibb: Professor Wolf concluded in her recent report on the "Review of Vocational Education" that providing 16 to 18-year-olds with work opportunities was a priority, and she questioned the value of much of the work experience that young people at Key Stage 4 undertake. We therefore have no plans to increase the number of students at Key Stage 4 in secondary schools participating in high quality work experience. This is consistent with our Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", where we set out our aim to trust frontline professionals in schools, rather than constrain them by central plans. Secondary schools are best placed to work with local employers to determine how to provide high quality work experience for their Key Stage 4 pupils.

Sixth Form Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 889W, on sixth form education, what assessments he undertook prior to his decision to reduce the funding for entitlement to 30 funded learning hours. [47302]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* We considered a range of options in order to secure our commitment to full participation among 16 and 17-year-olds by 2015 and to deliver the unit costs savings announced as part of the 16-19 spending review settlement.

Our priority has been to protect the core education programmes offered by schools and colleges that equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to progress and succeed. We have also increased the funding available to target disadvantage by more than one third (in 2011/12 the total funding will be £770 million) to help support those students who face the greatest barriers to participation in 16-19 education. We also recognise that tutorial provision for all is important and that is why we have protected that within the entitlement reduction so that all full time students can have access to a tutorial programme.

In light of these priorities and the state of the public finances inherited from the previous Government, the entitlement was reduced because the evidence to support the claim that the enrichment activity within the entitlement provided value for money was weak.

That is not to say that the Government regard the other activities that might be funded from the public purse as additional enrichment activities as unimportant. However, at a time when we are experiencing a welcome increase in participation, alongside a need to respond to extremely difficult economic circumstances, providing an entitlement to those activities to all full-time students cannot be a priority.

Truancy: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the rate of truancy is for secondary schools in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency; and what steps he is taking to reduce levels of truancy. [49771]

Mr Gibb: Information on pupil absence in 2009/10 is shown in the table. Berkshire was reorganised in 1998, information has been provided for the six local authorities that Berkshire was divided into.

The closest measure we have to truancy is unauthorised absence. However, this includes family holidays not agreed, late arrival, "other unauthorised circumstances", and "no reason given", not all of which is truancy.

Pupil absence in state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: 2009/10

		Percentage of half days missed[3]			
	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2009/10[4]	*Authorised absence*	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*	*Percentage of persistent absentees*[5,6]
Bracknell Forest	5,646	0.06	0.01	0.07	0.04
Reading	5,205	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03
Slough	8,175	0.06	0.01	0.07	0.04
West Berkshire	10,062	0.05	0.01	0.07	0.04
Windsor and Maidenhead	8,641	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03
Wokingham	8,677	0.05	0.01	0.07	0.04
Reading West constituency	5,958	0.06	0.01	0.07	0.05

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[4] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year until 21 May 2010. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).

[5] Number of persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.

[6] Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, around 20% overall absence rate.

Source:
School Census

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arrest Warrants

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has made to her counterpart in Poland on the number of European arrest warrants issued by that country. [49704]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The Minister of State for Security and Counter-terrorism (Baroness Neville-Jones) discussed the operation of the European Arrest Warrant with the Polish Justice Minister, Mr Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, on 10 March 2011. The Minister underlined the UK's view that proportionality should be carefully considered by requesting member states before they issue a European Arrest Warrant. The issue of proportionality and the European arrest warrant has also been discussed by officials during bi-lateral discussions in October 2008 and September 2010. Further official-led discussions are envisaged for later in 2011.

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely future change in the number of European arrest warrants received by the UK as a result of proposals to implement the Schengen Information System II during 2012. [49706]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The UK's connection date to the Schengen Information System II (SIS II) has been revised following the announcement last June of the Commission's revised operational timetable, giving a new entry into operation date for the central EU system of early 2013. The UK's SIS II Programme has also been the subject of a major project review conducted by HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce. This assessed that the programme is in a good position to deliver its objectives but in the light of the announcement of the delay to the central system, it recommended that the UK's connection date be moved back until 2015. In reality a UK go-live date of 2015 means that we will need to connect for testing purposes in 2014, shortly after the central system is due to be ready and the member states migrating from SIS I have bedded down their new systems. Further assessments of the number of European arrest warrants on the SIS II system and their likely impact on the United Kingdom will be made nearer the UK go-live date.

Arrest Warrants: Costs

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost to the UK was of the European arrest warrant system in each year since 2004. [49705]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* An exercise is under way to estimate the average cost of executing a European arrest warrant and an extradition request in England and Wales, and the results will be available in due course.

Arrest Warrants: Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to respond to the statement by the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe on "Overuse of the European Arrest Warrant: a threat to human rights". [48391]

Nick Herbert: The Government are aware that concerns as to the proportionate use of the European arrest warrant ('EAW') have been expressed by a number of people. This is why the operation of the EAW is one of the areas being examined by the independent panel appointed by the Government to review the UK's extradition arrangements.

It would, however, be inappropriate to comment on the statement ahead of the completion of the review, which is due to be published by the end of the summer, 2011. A copy of the statement has however been passed to the extradition review panel.

Assaults on Police

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on a police constable in England and Wales were reported in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [49436]

Nick Herbert: Available data are provided in the following table:

Assaults[1] on police constables on duty, England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Assaults
2005-06[2]	11,664
2006-07[3]	—
2007-08[4]	9,059
2008-09[5]	8,895
2009-10[6]	7,388

[1] These data are provisional.

[2] Cambridgeshire, Cleveland and Devon and Cornwall police forces were not able to provide data for 2005-06.

[3] Data not available. A significant number of police forces were unable to provide their figures for 2006-07.

4. Cumbria, Greater Manchester, South Wales, North Yorkshire and Wiltshire were unable to provide data for 2007-08.

5. Cheshire, Cumbria, Essex and North Yorkshire were not able to provide data for 2008-09.

6. Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Hampshire and North Yorkshire were not able to provide data for 2009-10.

Border Agency

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency; and what issues they discussed. [50633]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State met with the independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency on 24 March 2011 to discuss his Inspection Plan for 2011-12. The plan was published on 31 March 2011 on the Chief Inspector's website.

Crimes of Violence: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of levels of violent crime in the west midlands in each of the last three years. [47376]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* Data supplied in Table A are for police recorded violence against the person offences. Data are provided for west midlands alongside the total figures for England and Wales for each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Recorded violence against the person offences in west midlands and England and Wales, 2007-08 to 2009-10

Area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West midlands	53,335	48,222	47,396
England and Wales	961,099	903,447	871,712

Cybercrime

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with their EU counterparts on establishing international law in the area of cyber-attack. [45339]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* The UK Government continues to work closely with European Union counterparts and the representatives of European member states to increase our collective response to cyber-attacks. This includes ongoing discussions regarding the potential application of international law in the area of cyber-attack.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department discussed cyber-issues with her counterparts at the G6 meeting in Krakow of 3-4 February, as she reported in her written ministerial statement to Parliament of 11 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 23WS.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my noble Friend (Lord McNally), participated in a discussion on the draft directive on attacks against information systems at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 25 February, as reported in the Secretary of State for the Home Department's written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 37WS.

The UK Government will continue to work multilaterally and bilaterally to support work to protect the UK's interests in cyberspace.

Demonstrations

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will request the Metropolitan police to publish the report of its internal investigation into the use of CS gas at the protest at the Boots store on Oxford street, London on 30 January 2011. [49957]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* A decision on the publication of a Metropolitan police internal investigation report into the use of CS gas is a matter for the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate her Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Serious Organised Crime Agency into the new National Crime Agency; [48806]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the National Policing Improvement Agency; [48680]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Security Industry Authority. [48679]

Nick Herbert: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Home Office is not yet in a position to estimate net overall administrative savings from specific structural reforms such as the creation of the National Crime Agency in December 2013, the phasing out of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), and the transition from the Security Industry Authority to a new self-regulatory regime by the end of 2013.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples police forces submitted to the National DNA Database in each of the last three years. [50015]

James Brokenshire: The following table shows the number of subject sample profiles and the number of crime scene sample profiles loaded onto the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each of the last three years. The figures are for profiles submitted on behalf of all UK forces.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Number of subject sample and crime scene sample profiles loaded onto the NDNAD in each year 2007-08 to 2009-10 from all forces in the UK

	Number of sample profiles loaded	*Number of crime scene sample profiles loaded*
2007-08	591,028	50,579
2008-09	580,174	49,572
2009-10	540,333	43,974

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will press all airlines using UK airports to introduce measures to enable them to determine whether they are free of trafficked persons. [50686]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Risk and Liaison Overseas Network (RALON) officers work closely with airlines and provide training and support overseas on trafficking and related immigration issues to help carriers identify potential traffickers and their victims.

The e-Borders programme is enabling us to collect and analyse information from carriers about passengers intending to travel to or from the UK. This record of passenger movements informs us in advance who plans to cross our border so that we can check travellers against lists of people known to pose a threat such as traffickers.

The Government's forthcoming strategy on human trafficking will reflect plans for further engagement with the airline industry and to enhance knowledge of trafficking in this sector.

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Scottish Executive on steps to combat illegal migration. [50402]

Damian Green: The matter is discussed on an ongoing basis as part of regular meetings between UK Border Agency officials and officials from the Scottish Government and the Scottish police service. It has not been the subject of recent discussions at ministerial level.

Immigration Controls

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what economic impact assessment her Department undertook on the decision to implement a visa cap. [50385]

Damian Green: An impact assessment in respect of the Government's policy to apply limits to tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system was published, and placed in the Library of the House, on 16 March 2011.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the decision to implement a visa cap; on what dates such meetings occurred; and who was present at each such meeting. [50386]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State and I regularly meet our ministerial colleagues at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss matters relating to migration, including the limit on non-EU economic migration.

Marriage of Convenience

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to tackle sham marriages; and if she will make a statement; [50404]

(2) how many people have been arrested for offences related to sham marriages in each of the last five years. [50676]

Damian Green: Since January 2010 the UK Border Agency has been working to develop effective strategies for tackling sham marriage. The UK Border Agency is working with the civil registration services and the relevant authorities within the Anglican Church in England and Wales, who are all committed to helping us to tackle the problem of sham marriage.

The UK Border Agency is offering training and awareness sessions at local level as well as assisting in the development of effective guidance. The UK Border Agency is working to develop closer links with register offices and dioceses at a local level to provide support to those who can identify potentially suspicious marriages and to facilitate early detection and appropriate action against foreign nationals seeking to gain an immigration advantage from a sham marriage. Since January 2010 two periods of targeted enforcement actions have been conducted against those involved in sham marriages, which resulted in 155 arrests.

The UK Border Agency records data relating to offenders arrested on the National Operations Database (NOD). Data are available from 2007-08 and record the following numbers of arrests for offences specifically related to marriage abuse.

	Number
April 2006 to March 2007	4
April 2007 to March 2008	7
April 2008 to March 2009	2
April 2009 to March 2010	5
April 2010 to February 2011	37

(The NOD is a management information tool and data from it are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided from the NOD do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional).

As well as offences specifically related to marriage abuse, persons were also arrested for general immigration offences such as illegal entry or overstaying a period of lawful entry.

The UK Border Agency, in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service, has brought successful prosecutions against a number of persons involved in sham marriages for offences under the Immigration Acts, Perjury Act, ID Cards Act and Fraud Act.

Migrant Workers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas in the category of *(a)* temporary worker (creative and sporting), *(b)* temporary worker (charity worker), *(c)* temporary worker (religious worker), *(d)* temporary worker (government authorised exchange), *(e)* temporary worker (international agreement) and *(f)* Youth Mobility scheme Tier 5 were issued in 2010. [50484]

Damian Green: The following table gives the requested figures.

Category	*Issued*
Tier 5 (creative and sporting)	7,760
Tier 5 (charity worker)	2,260
Tier 5 (religious worker)	1,550
Tier 5 (government authorised exchange)	3,235
Tier 5 (international agreement)	455
Tier 5 (youth mobility scheme)	20,720
Total	35,980

These figures are published by the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics and are available online at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/control-immigration-q4-2010-tabs.xls

Police

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio of police to public was in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [47794]

Nick Herbert: The latest available data are provided in the following table which shows the number of officers per 100,000 population as at 31 March 1997 to 2010 by police force area (full-time equivalent). These figures have been published in the Police Service Strength in England and Wales bulletin for each year.

Number of officers per 100,000 population as at 31 March 1997 to 2010 by police force area[1]—England and Wales

	Total officers per 100,000 population[2]													
Police force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	225	226	224	218	213	207
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213	207	204	209	208
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196	187	183	191	191
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223	225	218	217	215
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308	315	303	314	309
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256	255	251	258	250
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212	209	212	215	207
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219	216	214	213	213
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216	217	216	213	209
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288	285	272	263	249
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203	203	203	206	211
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228	229	234	235	223
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318	314	315	321	316
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211	215	214	207	202
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208	210	204	204	196
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251	251	248	233	225
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227	229	227	231	229
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253	252	254	259	253
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241	237	233	243	236
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	183	183	175	177	173

Number of officers per 100,000 population as at 31 March 1997 to 2010 by police force area[1]—England and Wales

									Total officers per 100,000 population[2]				
Police force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,521
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315	325	331	333	334
Metropolitan police	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	417	426	430	432	436
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193	191	190	198	196
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207	200	196	196	198
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291	283	285	294	298
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216	217	202	185	188
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243	235	224	227	225
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	260	259	256	248	235	226
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219	219	214	208	203
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191	196	188	182	175
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184	183	179	170	172
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207	205	201	208	207
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202	199	194	198	201
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198	199	198	189	182
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202	205	210	208	201
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318	318	324	332	329
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270	270	269	268	261
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196	192	190	191	182
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236	237	236	236
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	259	264	268	266	257	257
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	250	242	238	234	234	234
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	273	271	273	264	255	253
Total of all 43 forces	241	240	237	233	234	240	254	264	267	267	266	264	266	264

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined apart from in 2009-10.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future numbers of front-line police officers in England. [47848]

Nick Herbert: It is for chief constables and their police authorities to make decisions on the number of police officers within their available resource. The Government believe that forces can make savings while maintaining or improving the service they provide to the public.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on arrangements to improve liaison between police services and other emergency responders; what assessment she has made of the preparedness for major incidents requiring close working between blue-light services and other responders; and if she will make a statement. [48150]

Nick Herbert: The strategic defence and security review records Ministers' agreed intention to improve the ability of the emergency services to work together during emergencies. This includes implementation of procedures to enable the emergency services and other responders to make best use of communications during major incidents and the development and refinement of operational plans for dealing with a range of different types of incident. The Cabinet Office is leading work to maximise the multi-agency response to a wide range of scenarios.

Detailed resilience plans are developed locally, and in most cases the police service will co-ordinate the activities of the emergency services and other responding agencies at and around the scene of an emergency or major incident.

The response to any emergency or major incident needs to be managed flexibly as each incident is unique and the response needs to be co-ordinated in a manner to reflect local needs and circumstances.

Police: Diamond Jubilee 2012

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether serving police officers will be awarded a diamond jubilee medal; and if she will make a statement. [49577]

Nick Herbert: Commemoration of the diamond jubilee through the issuing of a medal is under consideration. Further details will be released in due course.

Police: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has conducted *(a)* an equality impact assessment and *(b)* a risk assessment on the effects of proposed reductions in police numbers in England and Wales in the next two years. [47365]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* The Home Office published an equality screening of the Spending Review 2010 on 20 October 2010. Chief constables and police authorities will need to consider the local impact and risks of decisions they take when making decisions about how they allocate resources. Forces should be focusing on the middle and the back office when making savings in order to maintain frontline services.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CID officers there were in each police force in *(a)* each year since 2008 and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available. [48534]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* The requested information is provided in the following table.

Police officers whose primary function is Criminal Investigation Department (CID)[1], England and Wales, as at 31 March, 2008-10 (FTE)[2] by police force

Police force	*2008[3]*	*2009[4]*	*2010[4,5]*
Avon and Somerset	503	512	343
Bedfordshire	129	185	181
Cambridgeshire	173	183	254
Cheshire	507	367	364
Cleveland	176	201	200
Cumbria	127	98	100
Derbyshire	325	337	348
Devon and Cornwall	498	495	525
Dorset	218	197	175
Durham	172	153	141
Dyfed-Powys	70	93	101
Essex	350	328	343
Gloucestershire	163	160	157
Greater Manchester	1,238	1,052	1,195
Gwent	153	154	113
Hampshire	430	419	435
Hertfordshire	208	372	341
Humberside	430	408	374
Kent	562	589	535
Lancashire	461	503	513
Leicestershire	253	219	299
Lincolnshire	131	119	113
London, City of	105	85	88
Merseyside	526	526	567
Metropolitan police	4,087	3,736	3,807
Norfolk	167	145	172
Northamptonshire	113	141	271
Northumbria	484	534	496
North Wales	114	112	169
North Yorkshire	166	169	134
Nottinghamshire	385	385	348
South Wales	521	385	441
South Yorkshire	472	404	503
Staffordshire	295	280	347
Suffolk	171	166	174
Surrey	216	383	414
Sussex	293	318	322
Thames Valley	433	483	460
Warwickshire	140	124	127
West Mercia	290	294	313
West Midlands	1,044	1,079	1,109
West Yorkshire	1,103	935	556
Wiltshire	120	161	150

Police officers whose primary function is Criminal Investigation Department (CID)[1], England and Wales, as at 31 March, 2008-10 (FTE)[2] by police force

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[3]. Includes CID Aides/Trainee Investigators.

[4] Includes CID Specialist Crime Units.

[5] Data are correct as at 5 October 2010.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the likely effects of reductions in her Department's budget on frontline police staffing levels at the London 2012 Olympics. [43786]

Nick Herbert: By improving efficiency, driving out waste and increasing productivity, I believe that the service can make the savings required while protecting its frontline policing capacity, including in relation to the London 2012 Olympics.

The Government will make up to £600 million available, if required, for the Olympic safety and security programme. At this stage, with almost two years before the Games begin, we estimate that it should be possible to deliver the core cross-Government safety and security programme for about £475 million. We will continue to keep security planning and policing for the Games under review, but we are satisfied that sufficient funding has been made available to deliver the security programme in full.

Police: Overtime

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the level of overtime payments to full-time police officers at basic command unit level. [48215]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The Home Office does not collect information on overtime at basic command unit level, and it could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Termination of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have left each police force in England and Wales during 2010-11 to date. [48024]

Nick Herbert: Available information relates to police officers leaving forces for the six-month period to 30 September 2010 and is given in the table.

Statistics for the whole of 2010-11 are scheduled for publication in July 2011.

Police officer leavers[1, 2] England and Wales police forces at 30 September 2010[3]

Police force	*Leavers*
Avon and Somerset	74
Bedfordshire	25
Cambridgeshire	41
Cheshire	45
Cleveland	30
Cumbria	34
Derbyshire	38
Devon and Cornwall	67
Dorset	27
Durham	46
Dyfed-Powys	32
Essex	57
Gloucestershire	20
Greater Manchester	174
Gwent	22
Hampshire	96
Hertfordshire	37
Humberside	52
Kent	75
Lancashire	91
Leicestershire	47
Lincolnshire	32
London, City of	19
Merseyside	97
Metropolitan police	619
Norfolk	35
Northamptonshire	32
Northumbria	64
North Wales	32
North Yorkshire	22
Nottinghamshire	65
South Wales	67
South Yorkshire	69
Staffordshire	41
Suffolk	26
Surrey	50
Sussex	69
Thames Valley	124
Warwickshire	21
West Mercia	100
West Midlands	200
West Yorkshire	143
Wiltshire	28

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Includes normal retirements, medical retirements, resignations, dismissals and death but not transfers to other England and Wales forces and officers leaving after a period of secondment.

[3] Leavers numbers are for the six-month period to 30 September 2010.

Serious Organised Crime: Finance

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Serious Organised Crime Agency was in each year since its inception. [47253]

Nick Herbert: The information is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	427.6
2007-08	444.7
2008-09	474.7
2009-10	478.0
2010-11	469.8

Serious Organised Crime: Manpower

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff at each payband the Serious Organised Crime Agency employs in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland. [47254]

Nick Herbert: At the end of February 2011 the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) employed the following staff at each pay band in the UK:

Grade	*Full-time equivalent*
SCS	30.9
SG1	83.3
SG2	211
SG3	582.7
SG4	1194.3
SG5	1434.4
SG6	356

(b) SOCA has a UK-wide remit and has officers deployed throughout the UK and overseas. Staff are not necessarily based in the region or area on which their work has an impact. For reasons of operational sensitivity it is not possible to provide details of personnel strength in specific locations.

Serious Organised Crime: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Justice Minister in the Northern Ireland Executive on the work of the Serious Organised Crime Agency in Northern Ireland. [47248]

Nick Herbert: None. However the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has regular discussions at official level with the Ministry of Justice in Northern Ireland. Officials are briefed regularly on the work of SOCA and are consulted in the preparation of the SOCA Annual Plan. SOCA is a member of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF), chaired by the Minister, and attends both the stakeholder and strategy groups. SOCA also contributes to specific OCTF work streams where it is able to add value.

Serious Organised Crime: Terrorism

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of European arrest warrants issued to the UK were in respect of serious organised crime or terrorism offences in each year since 2004 for which figures are available. [49703]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European arrest warrants (EAWs).

It is not possible to provide the figures for the number of EAWs issued to the UK broken down by offence type prior to April 2009. This would require a manual examination of all case files. A new recording system was introduced in April 2009 and the figures for EAWs issued to the UK broken down by offence type are available for the 2009-10 financial year. This is set out in the following table.

It is not possible to provide the figures for the number of EAWs issued to the UK in respect of serious organised crime specifically as this is not one of the recording categories used. To provide this figure a manual review of all files would have to be undertaken.

It is worth noting that the majority of European arrest warrants (EAWs) issued by EU member states are circulated to other EU member states on the Schengen Information System (SIS). As the UK is not party to the SIS, we rely on the bilateral transmission of the EAWs. A significant proportion of the EAWs circulated will therefore prove to have no connection to the UK although they are registered as having been "received" by SOCA. This includes, for example, the 40 EAWs issued in April 2009 for alleged war crimes. We understand that those sought have no connection to the UK.

	2009									*2010*			
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
Armed Robbery	3	3	2	5	2	4	16	3	3	6	5	4	56
Arms Trafficking	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Arson	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	6
Child Sex Offences	6	18	4	5	2	2	11	3	2	3	6	2	64
Counterfeiting	—	—	2	1	3	—	4	1	—	—	6	2	19
Drugs Trafficking	40	33	40	38	29	52	56	32	31	36	36	21	444
E-Crime	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Fraud	49	46	55	73	48	94	118	72	45	93	117	81	891
Grievous Bodily Harm	5	6	8	21	10	10	23	18	9	20	20	10	160
Immigration and Human Trafficking	8	9	6	12	7	10	9	14	9	18	10	10	122
Kidnapping	2	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	3	3	9	7	30
Money Laundering	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	8	1	15
Murder	27	54	33	5	4	10	7	5	5	10	1	5	166
Other	71	41	59	78	53	72	84	49	40	44	65	56	712
Rape	20	46	26	9	4	9	6	2	2	4	4	10	142
Robbery	26	14	24	46	26	38	44	28	24	38	54	28	390
Terrorism	7	5	11	6	5	4	6	1	4	9	2	17	[1]77
Theft	59	37	61	79	45	93	104	60	26	62	73	56	755
War Crimes	40	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	45
Grand total	364	314	333	378	239	407	492	289	204	350	417	313	4,100

[1] Previous data provided to the House of Lords' EU Select Committee referred to 84 EAWs (part one warrants) received by the UK for terrorist-related offences. A further data cleansing exercise carried out by SOCA has revealed that seven of these cases as requests from non-EU countries.

Telephone Tapping: Newspaper Press

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on contact between the Police Commissioner for the Metropolis and *News of the World* editors during the time the Commissioner was responsible for investigating telephone tapping. [47875]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* The Home Office holds no such information.

Vetting: International Organisations

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to enable international organisations to access the criminal records checking procedures of UK institutions. [49400]

Lynne Featherstone: International organisations do not have access to the UK's criminal records disclosure services. Individuals can choose to supply a "basic" certificate disclosing their unspent convictions to international organisations. These are currently provided by Disclosure Scotland and AccessNI. The Government are currently considering a recommendation, made by Sunita Mason in her recent Phase 1 report reviewing the Criminal Records' Regime, that the Criminal Records Bureau should make a basic certificate available in England and Wales.

Under the terms of European Union Council Decision 2005/876/JHA law enforcement agencies in an EU member state can seek the previous convictions of a UK national being prosecuted in that member state. Requests are received by the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records. If identity can be confirmed the

UK Central Authority will send the convictions, or information that there are none, to the requesting member state. Requests that do not concern criminal proceedings are also sent to the Central Authority. The Central Authority will reply using the same procedures, as long as the purpose of the request is one for which access to previous convictions would be possible in a domestic case.

Parties to the 1959 Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters who are not in the EU can make requests, in cases of criminal proceedings, under the terms of that Convention. Countries which are not in the EU and are not parties to the 1959 Convention can make a request in cases of criminal proceedings, through the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 4 April 2011

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50201]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office contract with Government Car Service was terminated in January 2011 at my request. In line with the practice of the previous Administration, a private car hire company is used for any official travel in Scotland.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50081]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not keep a record of individual journeys taken by Ministers on public transport.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50178]

Michael Moore: Scotland Office Ministers have not been issued with an Oyster card or a London Transport travel card.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50210]

Michael Moore: The information requested is provided in the following table. Please note that since January 2011 the Scotland Office no longer has a contract with Government Car Service.

May 2010 to February 2011

	£
Ministerial car	46,237
Train	995
Bus	0
Commercial aircraft	6,954
Private aircraft	0

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Motions: Audio Recordings

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 960W, on Motions: audio recordings, what progress the House of Commons Commission has made on placing on the parliamentary website a sound recording of the debate held on a motion of no confidence in the Government on 28 March 1979; and if he will make a statement. [50240]

John Thurso: The 1979 audio recording of the debate held on a motion of no confidence in the Government on 28 March 1979 has been published on the Living Heritage page on the Parliament website.

Security: Parliament

Nicholas Soames: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many passes to enter the Palace of Westminster have been issued in each category since May 2010; how many of these were issued to hon. Members' staff acting *(a)* as secretaries, *(b)* as research assistants and *(c)* in other capacities; and what estimate the Commission has made of the number of research assistants in possession of a valid pass at the latest date for which figures are available. [50113]

John Thurso: The number of passes issued in each category since May 2010 are in Table A. The number of passes issued to hon. Members' staff acting *(a)* as secretaries, *(b)* as research assistants and *(c)* in other capacities are in Table B; those currently on issue in these categories are shown in Table C.

All figures given for passes issued since May 2010 include those that have been replaced because they have been lost or stolen, temporary passes issued because passes have been left elsewhere and routine renewals of passes.

Table A: Number of passes issued since May 2010

Pass category	*Number issued since May 2010*	*Current valid passes on issue*
Contractor Works	1,485	1,125
Contractor Works Escort	462	274
Excluded Hereditary Peer	30	83
Former Member	228	351
Full Pass Holder House of Commons	1,237	1,707
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Officer	307	314
Full Pass Holder Staff of Both Houses	1,429	1,434

Table A: Number of passes issued since May 2010

Pass category	*Number issued since May 2010*	*Current valid passes on issue*
Full Pass Holder Staff of Both Houses Officer	86	93
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Whips	95	62
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Members Library	4	4
Full Pass Holder House of Lords	372	924
Full Pass Holder House of Lords Officer	99	100
Full Pass Holder House of Lords Whips	33	28
Government Department Staff	2,074	1,801
Government Department Staff Escort	380	258
Gymnasium	90	91
MEP	27	21
Media	116	89
Media Escort	25	28
Media Gallery	87	77
Media Lobby	266	242
Members of Parliament	1,067	650
Peers Staff	624	587
Peers	458	821
Restricted Pass Holder	479	342
Restricted Pass Holder Driver	92	99
Restricted Pass Holder Escort	80	46
Restricted Pass Holder Tour Guide	239	198
Retired Officer	9	17
Staff of Both Houses	637	530
Staff of Both Houses Escort	258	116
Staff of House of Commons	231	117
Staff of House of Commons Escort	25	6
Staff of House of Lords	145	107

Table B: Members staff passes issued since May 2010

	Number
Research Assistant	2,941
Secretary	548
Other	
Chauffeur	1
Intern	315
Media Advisor	2
Party Staff	1
Press Officer	4
Work Experience	16
APPG passes	31

Table C: Members staff passes currently on issue (March 2011)

	Number
Research Assistant	1,222
Secretary	328
Other	
Intern	165
Media Adviser	1
Party Staff	1
Press Officer	2
APPG passes	19

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the deployment of helicopters to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [50295]

Nick Harvey: Helicopters make an essential contribution to current operations in Afghanistan. The Government will continue to ensure that deployed helicopter numbers and flying hours meet our operational requirements.

Air Force: Manpower

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the economy of reductions in Royal Air Force service personnel. [50292]

Mr Robathan: In November 2010 following the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) the Ministry of Defence conducted a sustainability appraisal into the effects of the decisions taken. Further work is ongoing to identify the impact of manpower reductions as well as the rationalisation of Defence estates and equipment on the local economy and employment. This work is not specific to the numbers of RAF service personnel.

Infrastructure Security and Resilience Advisory Council

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who sits on the Infrastructure Security and Resilience Advisory Council; how many times it has met since its inception; what the agenda items were for each such meeting; and what powers the Council has. [43972]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring that dialogue with industry is effective and comprehensive and so better addresses the risks of disruption to national infrastructure. Examples of work in this area include meetings of an advisory body representing industry and regulators. This has supported the work that has led to the publication for consultation on 1 March of the guide to improving resilience to natural hazards and the recent discussions with industry on the risks posed in the area of cyber security. The Infrastructure Security and Resilience Advisory Council has not yet been set up and the Government are using existing arrangements with industry to consider the establishment of a senior umbrella group with advisory functions in this area.

Military Aircraft: France

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions his Department has had with the French Government on using the Breguet Atlantique maritime patrol aircraft; [49904]

(2) whether the French Government has offered his Department use of the Breguet Atlantique maritime patrol aircraft. [49905]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence officials have regular discussions with their French counterparts on a wide range of issues, including anti-submarine warfare capability. We have no plans to use the Breguet Atlantique maritime patrol aircraft.

Storm Shadow Missile

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of one Storm Shadow missile; and what assessment he has made of the value for money of the Storm Shadow missile. [49247]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* Storm Shadow provides the UK with a unique capability for precision strike against high-value hardened targets such as command bunkers without exposing aircraft and crews to high threat levels. The missile was procured in co-operation with France following an international competition. Storm Shadow missiles which were contracted for in 1997 are now held on the Ministry of Defence's balance sheet at a value of some £790,000 per missile. This figure includes the costs of producing an integrated weapon system and not just the purchase cost of the missile. In addition, a further £160 million was incurred by the UK in development costs.

The Ministry of Defence now takes a portfolio approach to procuring complex weapons. This was launched in April 2010 and will secure significant efficiencies across the breadth of the complex weapons portfolio over the next 10 years and beyond and is designed to meet the UK's military requirements and safeguard our sovereign capability.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken in response to the recommendations of his Department's report, "SDSR: Lessons Identified"; and if he will make a statement. [50293]

Dr Fox: The Government will draw on the experience of the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) to inform the next SDSR.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Antarctic Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from his Department are currently based in the British Antarctic Territory. [51248]

Mr Bellingham: There are no Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff based in the British Antarctic Territory.

Cote d'Ivoire: Politics and Government

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Cote d'Ivoire. [50234]

Mr Bellingham: The political crisis and security situation in Cote d'Ivoire is increasingly concerning as former President Laurent Gbagbo refuses to cede power to the rightful winner of last year's poll, President Alassane Ouattara. The impact on the lives of innocent civilians is particularly disturbing. The Government continue to monitor the situation closely, including military advances being made by President Ouattara's forces, and calls on all sides to exercise restraint.

I welcome United Nations Security Council Resolution 1975, which reinforces and reaffirms the resolve of the United Nations and the African Union to see a swift resolution to the crisis.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spoke to President Ouattara on 21 March to express support for his position as legitimate Head of State.

Cote d'Ivoire: United Nations

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his UN counterpart on disturbances in Cote d'Ivoire; and if he will make a statement. [50235]

Mr Bellingham: The situation in Cote d'Ivoire remains volatile and deeply worrying. The Government are in regular contact with UN counterparts through their diplomatic missions in New York, Geneva and Abidjan. I welcome United Nations Security Council Resolution 1975 which reinforces and reaffirms the resolve of the United Nations and the African Union to see a swift resolution to the crisis.

We have supported the UN Human Rights Council's recent resolution calling for a commission of inquiry into human rights abuses and we are also supporting a proposed UN Security Council Resolution currently under discussion. More widely, the Government continue to support the African Union's leadership in seeking a swift and peaceful resolution to the crisis.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr O'Brien) answered an urgent question on the humanitarian response to the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire on 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 519-25.

Former Ministers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 819W, on former Ministers, whether his Department monitors records of the briefings given to former Ministers. [50674]

Mr Lidington: No.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports he has received and *(b)* representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the treatment of human rights campaigners in Al Sulaimaniyah; and if he will make a statement. [50372]

Alistair Burt: We do not have any specific information on the treatment of human rights campaigners in Sulaimaniyah. However, we are aware of reports of intimidation and violence being committed against journalists and protestors during recent demonstrations across Iraq, including the Kurdistan region. Following the demonstrations, I released the following statement on 10 March 2011:

> "We have been following events in Iraq closely. We are concerned at a number of reports of harassment of protestors, including political groups associated with the protests, and of violence against journalists and media offices across Iraq. We call on the Iraqi and Kurdish authorities to investigate these incidents and to protect the right to freedom of expression and assembly".

Our embassy officials in Baghdad regularly discuss human rights issues with senior members of the Iraqi Government, and raise concerns when appropriate.

Iran: Radar

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* Palestinian and *(c)* Syrian counterpart on reports that British-made Kelvin Hughes SharpEye radars were intercepted by Israeli forces on board the vessel Victoria in March 2011; [49583]

(2) what assessment he has made of the discovery of Kelvin Hughes SharpEye radars on board the vessel Victoria in March 2011; whether this represents a violation of the terms of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions in respect of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [49584]

Alistair Burt: Government officials have held discussions with Israeli officials on this matter; at this time we have not had any discussions regarding the shipment with Syrian or Palestinian counterparts. We are continuing to look into this matter to ascertain whether any further action is necessary, if the items in question are found to be in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

Israel: Embassies

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding has been allocated to the refurbishment of the British embassy in Israel; what assessment was made of the need for such expenditure; and when he expects embassy staff to return to the refurbished premises. [50418]

Mr Lidington: In September 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Board and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs approved the funding of £18.998 million for refurbishment of our embassy in Israel.

A full business case was prepared for the project which highlighted that our embassy building in Tel Aviv falls short of necessary health and safety and environmental standards and fitness for purpose. We looked at alternative options and concluded the chosen solution was the most effective and that it represented the best value for money.

Staff will return to the embassy in July 2012.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse is of relocating and accommodating British embassy staff in Israel as a result of the decision to undertake a full refurbishment of the British embassy. [50419]

Mr Lidington: The total cost of relocating and accommodating the staff is £1.399 million. This comprises of £214,000 displacement rent (while works are carried out) and £1.185 million fitting out works and related IT/communications.

Israel: Overseas Aid

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he has provided to the Government of Israel to prevent terrorism in Israel in each of the last three years; what assistance he plans to provide over the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [50231]

Alistair Burt: The UK and Israel Governments regularly discuss counter-terrorism issues. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not provided counter-terrorism assistance to the Government of Israel in the last three years, and there are currently no plans to provide assistance in the forthcoming spending review period.

Israel: Science

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage links between the UK and Israel in the fields of science and technology. [49804]

Alistair Burt: In November 2010, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs launched the UK-Israel Life Sciences Council, which had its first meeting in Israel on 25 January. The Council comprises 20 top scientists from both sides, and agreed that an important area for UK/Israel scientific collaboration should be the field of regenerative medicine. This will be now become the focus of an enhanced Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange (BIRAX) fund.

Israel: Terrorism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* suicide bombings and *(b)* terrorist incidents in (i) Jerusalem and (ii) Tel Aviv since January 2011; how many British citizens were (A) killed, (B) seriously injured and (C) injured in each incident; what the sex and age group of each such British citizen was; what recent discussions he has had with (1) the Government of Israel, (2) the Palestinian Authority, (3) the Government of Egypt, (4) the Arab League, (5) the Government of Jordan, (6) his EU counterparts and (7) the United Nations Secretary-General on such incidents; what steps he has taken and plans to take in the next six months at the United Nations in respect of this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [50300]

Alistair Burt: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) said on 25 March 2011:

> "I am extremely concerned at the escalating violence in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories over the past week. We have seen a surge in rockets and mortars launched at Israeli

> civilians from the Gaza strip. This is abhorrent. Three people have been injured, many more are living in fear. Six Palestinian civilians, including four children, have been killed as a result of Israeli actions in the Gaza strip. We have urged the Israeli Government to ensure everything is done to avoid further civilian casualties while calling for a complete end to attacks on Israel.
>
> And we have seen the terrible sight—which we hoped belonged to the past—of a bomb at a bus station in Jerusalem. A British woman was killed and more than 30 injured. I condemn this attack in the strongest terms and call for those responsible to be held to account. Elsewhere, we have seen Israeli settlers opening fire on a Palestinian funeral procession, wounding two mourners. Also, another Palestinian was stabbed in an unprovoked attack.
>
> We condemn the extremists who are instigating this violence and who are deliberately attempting to wreck the chances of peace. We call on all sides to do all that they can to prevent further loss of innocent life, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to reduce current tensions."

Our embassy in Tel Aviv and our consulate-general in Jerusalem are in regular contact with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority on these issues. President Abbas has condemned the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem. We are also in regular contact with EU and Arab League partners.

Libya: Foreign Nationals

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Commonwealth and *(b)* other foreign nationals who were evacuated from Libya by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [48877]

Alistair Burt: Over 800 foreign nationals from 54 countries were evacuated by the UK, on six Foreign and Commonwealth Office-organised charter flights plus Ministry of Defence ships and aircraft. These included Australian, Canadian and other Commonwealth nationals, as well as US nationals and those of several EU countries.

Middle East: Health Services

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the work of *(a)* Israeli medical organisations and *(b)* joint Arab-Israeli medical projects. [49851]

Alistair Burt: My officials receive regular reports of the work of a number of Israeli and joint Arab-Israeli medical organisations, centres and charity projects and initiatives.

The UK and Israel have a wide range of joint initiatives in the field of medicine that involve Israelis from all backgrounds. This includes grants for joint scientific research and the announcement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in November 2010 of the UK-Israel Life Sciences Council. The Council will be chaired by our ambassador, Matthew Gould, and co-chaired by Professor Raymond Dwek of Oxford university and Professor Rivka Carmi, President of Ben Gurion university.

Nightingale Island: Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects of the oil slick at Petrel Bay, Nightingale Island; and what assistance his Department is giving to mitigate the effects of the slick. [50594]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are extremely concerned by the situation in Tristan da Cunha, part of the British Overseas Territory of St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, arising from the wreck on Nightingale Island of the motor vessel (MV) Oliva. We have been in close touch with the Tristan da Cunha authorities throughout and are ensuring that they have the advice and support they need from across Government and elsewhere.

We are receiving regular reports on the situation at Nightingale Island from the Tristan da Cunha authorities. Leaked fuel oil from the wreck of the MV Oliva has washed ashore. It has impacted on both protected wildlife and the fisheries on which the islands' economy relies. The Tristan authorities and community are working hard to help the wildlife affected by the oil. The fisheries at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands will remain closed until testing has shown the catch to be free of any harmful effects of pollution. The longer term impacts on the wildlife and fisheries will take time to assess.

The responsibility to clean up the damage caused to this precious environment and to compensate the Tristan community for any losses they may suffer lies with the ship's owners and insurers. We are ensuring that they continue to meet this responsibility in full.

The remoteness of the site and the demanding conditions mean that this is a very difficult operation. Following the initial salvage efforts further equipment and expert personnel are now en route to the islands.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is giving to mitigate the effects of the Petrel Bay oil slick on Nightingale Island. [50595]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are extremely concerned by the situation in Tristan da Cunha, arising from the wreck on Nightingale Island of the Motor Vessel (MV) Oliva. We have been in close touch with the Tristan da Cunha Authorities throughout and are ensuring that they have the advice and support they need from across Government and elsewhere.

The responsibility to clean up the damage caused to this precious environment and to compensate the Tristan community for any losses they may suffer lies with the wrecked ship's owners and insurers. We are ensuring that they continue to meet this responsibility in full.

The remoteness of the site and the demanding conditions mean that this is a very difficult operation. Following the initial salvage efforts further equipment and expert personnel are now en route to the islands.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in the west bank; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the Government of Egypt, *(d)* the Government of Jordan, *(e)* his EU counterparts and *(f)* the United Nations Secretary-General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47687]

Alistair Burt: This answer covers the situation in the west bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza. The west bank and east Jerusalem are experiencing continued Israeli settlement construction, which is illegal under international law. Israel's refusal to halt construction is a serious obstacle to peace. We are pushing hard for a resumption of negotiations to resolve final status issues based on clear parameters supported by the international community.

In Gaza, while we welcomed the limited steps Israel has taken to facilitate the entry of ordinary consumer goods, the continued restrictions on access for dual-use items and the ban on nearly all exports continue to hamper reconstruction and economic revival. This benefits Hamas both financially and politically, while ensuring that ordinary Gazans remain poor and without hope for the future. We do not believe this is in Israel's interests.

Hamas remains committed to the use of violence to achieve its political goals, most recently witnessed in its use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Gaza and in the barrage of over 50 rockets fired at Israel on 19 March 2011.

Ministers and officials discuss the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on a regular basis with key partners including Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, the EU and the UN. The Secretary of State discussed these issues with President Abbas on 8 March 2011 and Ehud Barak on 17 March 2011.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Israel, *(b)* the Palestinian Authority, *(c)* the Government of Egypt, *(d)* the Arab League, *(e)* the Government of Jordan, *(f)* his EU counterparts and *(g)* the United Nations Secretary-General on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [47690]

Alistair Burt: This answer covers the situation in the west bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza. The west bank and east Jerusalem are experiencing continued Israeli settlement construction, which is illegal under international law. Israel's refusal to halt construction is a serious obstacle to peace. We are pushing hard for a resumption of negotiations to resolve final status issues based on clear parameters supported by the international community.

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Somaliland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department are based in Somaliland. [50415]

Mr Lidington: There are no Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff based in Somaliland.

Syria: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Syria. [51013]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 31 March 2011, we continue to watch the evolving situation in Syria closely, and are deeply concerned by continuing deaths and violence in Deraa and Latakia. We call on the Syrian Government to uphold their responsibility to protect protesters and to respect the right of peaceful protest and free speech. We call for restraint, particularly from the Syrian security forces.

We note the announcement of committees to study repeal of the Emergency Law, and to review the 1962 census that resulted in many Kurds in Syria being excluded from Syrian citizenship. We believe it is important for the Syrian Government to address the legitimate demands of the Syrian people. We call for serious political reforms to be brought forward and implemented without delay.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from his Department are based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [51242]

Mr Bellingham: I refer my hon. Friend to the response from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Hague) to the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander) on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 993-97W.

Western Sahara: United Nations

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet the UN Special Envoy to Western Sahara. [50147]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has no plans to meet Ambassador Christopher Ross, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara.

The Minister of State, my noble Friend Lord Howell met Ambassador Ross on 22 June 2010. They discussed the issues of human rights, natural resources and efforts to find a political solution to the conflict. I spoke to Ambassador Ross on 31 March 2011 in advance of the publication of the UN Secretary-General's annual report on the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and of a visit to the region.

Officials at our mission in New York are also in regular contact with Ambassador Ross and his staff.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Leader of the House (1) whether he is issued with an Oyster card paid for by the Office of the Leader of the House for the purposes of travelling on official business; [50139]

(2) whether he is issued with an annual or monthly travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by the Office of the Leader of the House for the purposes of travelling on official business; [50140]

(3) what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010; [50203]

(4) how much his Office has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010; [50216]

(5) what date he last travelled by London underground while on Government business; and how many times he has travelled by London underground while on Government business since May 2010; [50274]

(6) what date he last travelled by public bus while on Government business; and how many times he has travelled by public bus while on Government business since May 2010. [50275]

Sir George Young: Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

The contract entered into by the previous Administration providing for an allocated ministerial car for Ministers in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons was terminated in May 2010. I last used a ministerial car on 17 January 2011 and the Deputy Leader of the House last used a ministerial car on 7 February 2011. Neither I, nor the Deputy Leader of the House have ever used a ministerial car to travel to or from our constituencies.

My office does not issue its Ministers with an Oyster card or an annual or monthly travel card.

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has spent £313.33 on ministerial car travel since May 2010; including £137.02 incurred by the previous Administration. The Office has incurred £388 on the cost of ministerial train travel in the same period. No costs have been incurred for ministerial travel by bus, commercial aircraft or private aircraft.

When travelling in the course of Government business, both my Deputy and I predominantly travel by bicycle or walk. No separate record is maintained of when I have travelled by London underground or public bus in the course of Government business. On the occasions that I have done so, including on the last occasion I travelled by London underground on Government business on 24 March, no cost has been incurred to the Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the future funding of the BBC. [49900]

Mr Vaizey: There have been no discussions. The BBC's Charter and Agreement place obligations on the BBC with regard to the nations and regions of the UK.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with broadband providers on reducing surcharges to users of broadband services in rural areas. [49931]

Mr Vaizey: I have had no such discussions. Tariff regimes of private telecoms service providers are commercial decisions and are not regulated by Government.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on entry prices for non-national museums and galleries in receipt of funding from his Department. [49677]

Mr Vaizey: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had any recent discussions with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council about admission prices for the non-national museums and galleries currently in receipt of Department funding.

Sports: Clubs

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the effects on sports clubs of withdrawal of discretionary rate relief. [50598]

Hugh Robertson: In early 2010, the Department held discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government about the withdrawal of discretionary rate relief. The granting of discretionary rate relief is ultimately a decision for the local authority. However, the Government believe they have an important role to play in supporting not-for-profit organisations, recognising the public benefit that they give to their local community. We would expect local authorities to take full account of the central Government funding support for discretionary rate relief in making their decisions.

Certain sports clubs may also be eligible for small business rates relief which we have doubled until 30 September 2012, Eligible organisations with rateable values below £6,000 will pay no rates for that period.

The Government have also included in the Localism Bill the necessary provisions for discretionary business rates discounts so that local authorities will be able to respond to local circumstances by reducing business rates bills.

School Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of charging VAT on construction costs incurred by schools which open sports facilities out of hours. [50602]

Hugh Robertson: This issue was highlighted in the Sport and Recreation Alliance's recently published the "Red Card to Red Tape" regulatory burdens review which I commissioned. We are currently considering this issue alongside the report as a whole.

Television: Licensing

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to allow venues that currently do not have a television licence to receive one at no charge solely for the purposes of showing via a television receiver the broadcast of the royal wedding on 29 April 2011. [50455]

Mr Vaizey: There are no plans to introduce any concessionary television licences for the royal wedding.

Theatre: Tickets

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many free theatre tickets have been provided to people under 26 resident in *(a)* the south-west and *(b)* England under his Department's scheme since 2008. [50494]

Mr Vaizey: In February 2009, Arts Council England launched "A Night Less Ordinary" in association with Metro. The scheme offers free theatre tickets to anyone under 26 at more than 200 venues throughout England.

(a) The total number of tickets offered in the south-west region is 23,032. Of these, a total of 19,125 were taken up. These figures cover February 2009 to November 2010.

(b) The total number of tickets offered in total through the programme is 444,329. Of these, a total of 317,456 tickets were taken up. These figures cover February 2009 to November 2010.

The scheme ended on 31 March 2011. Final statistics will be published on the Arts Council website on 12 May 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish her Department's White Paper on the natural environment. [49853]

Richard Benyon: Following the hugely positive response to the consultation, including discussion documents and online survey, we are now taking account of these views and look forward to sharing the Natural Environment White Paper shortly.

Foxes: Urban Areas

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with local authorities on urban foxes. [50557]

Richard Benyon: No such discussions have taken place on this issue recently.

Local authorities have powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to take action to control foxes where they feel it is appropriate.

Hydrofluorocarbons

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of implementing the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in respect of the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons on the heat pump industry; and on what date she expects hydrofluorocarbons to be phased out from the heat pump industry. [50328]

Richard Benyon: The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer does not currently cover fluorinated greenhouse gases (F gases) such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). F gases form part of the basket of gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol. Proposals have been put forward to use the Montreal Protocol to phase down the production and use of HFCs and this would affect all types of equipment, not just heat pumps. The UK Government are supportive in principle of an international phase-down of production and consumption of HFCs and will continue to push for the development of one at upcoming Montreal Protocol and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings. As part of this, further detailed analysis of impacts will be conducted.

There are no plans to phase out HFCs. The proposals put forward to the Montreal Protocol are based on progressively phasing down (rather than phasing out) production and consumption of HFCs over time, while allowing continued HFC use for important equipment or where there are no suitable alternatives. Refrigerant choice in equipment would, therefore, be affected by any progressive cap on HFC availability.

Sewers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the timetable for the transfer of ownership of private sewers and lateral drains to sewerage undertakers following the passage of proposed legislation. [50278]

Richard Benyon: It is proposed that transfer should take place on 1 October 2011. We hope to seek parliamentary approval of the regulations this spring, in order to effect the transfer.

Water Charges: South West England

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of water bill payers in the south-west who will receive reduced bills as a result of implementation of the Government's proposals in the Budget; and for how many years such reductions will apply. [50118]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 466W, to the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy).

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to paragraph 1.156 of Budget 2011, HC 836, how much her Department plans to spend from the public purse on reducing water bills for customers in the south-west; from what date this money will be made available; how many people in each demographic group will be eligible for such payments; and from which of her Department's budgets the expenditure will be drawn. [50380]

Richard Benyon: The Government will consult shortly on proposals to address water affordability across England, including the south-west. This will include reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the approach to company social tariffs and options for additional Government spending to provide further support. Additional funding will be provided to DEFRA as necessary to deliver this policy, taking into account practical and affordability considerations.

Water Supply: Billing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether funding for the implementation of proposals to support households *(a)* who face water affordability pressures and *(b)* in areas with particularly high water bills will be from within her Department's existing allocation for the comprehensive spending review period. [50106]

Richard Benyon: The Government pledged in the Budget that we will consult shortly on proposals to support households which face water affordability pressures, and those in areas with particularly high water bills. Proposals include reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the approach to company social tariffs and options for additional Government spending to provide further support.

Additional funding will be provided to DEFRA as necessary to deliver this policy, taking into account practical and affordability considerations.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an estimate of the number of households in the south-west which will be affected by the measures in respect of water bills announced in the 2011 Budget in the next four financial years. [50315]

Richard Benyon: The Government pledged in the Budget that we will consult shortly on proposals to support households which face water affordability pressures, and those in areas with particularly high water bills, such as the south-west. This will include reforms to the existing WaterSure scheme, the approach to company social tariffs and options for additional Government spending to provide further support. Different options will benefit different numbers of households in the south-west.

Water: White Paper

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish her Department's Water White Paper. [49206]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 March 2011]*: We anticipate publishing the Water White Paper in the autumn.

WALES

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much her Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51429]

Mr David Jones: From April 2009 to the end of March 2010, the last full audited financial year for which figures are available, the Wales Office spent £11,388.06 on mobile phones and related data services for 31 officials.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) she and (ii) each other Minister in her Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50200]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, the right hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) and I shared the ministerial car today as we often do while travelling in an official capacity. The other information requested is not collected centrally and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) she and (B) each other Minister in her Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [50080]

Mr David Jones: This information is not collected centrally.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of her ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by her Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50177]

Mr David Jones: None.

Departmental Training

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51411]

Mr David Jones: From April 2009 to end of March 2010, the last full audited financial year for which figures are available, the Wales Office spent £31,055 on staff training.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50209]

Mr David Jones: From May 2010 to February 2011, the date to which information is available, the Wales Office spent:

(a) £167,588

(b) £5,002.70

(c) Nil

(d) £275.32

(e) Nil.

Legislative Competence Order Process

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had on the continuation of the legislative competence order process in non-devolved policy areas. [50544]

Mrs Gillan: The National Assembly for Wales's enhanced law-making powers come into force on 5 May. From that date Part 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, under which legislative competence orders are made, ceases to have effect.

However if, in future, the Government and the Welsh Assembly Government agreed that further powers should be devolved to the Assembly, an order could be brought forward under s.109 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 for approval by Parliament and the Assembly.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50179]

Mr Paterson: No one in my ministerial team has been issued with either an Oyster card or monthly/annual travel cards.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50082]

(2) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50202]

Mr Paterson: When travelling in Great Britain, I have the same arrangements as the Secretaries of State who served in the previous Government.

The Minister of State, the right hon. Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) and I use cars provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency as and when necessary for official ministerial business (under guidelines provided by the Cabinet Office).

On becoming Secretary of State I decided not to travel between Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a routine basis by private jet, which had been previous practice, thus saving the taxpayer large sums of money.

Decisions about ministerial travel are taken in line with section 10 of the Ministerial Code.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50211]

Mr Paterson: The cost of ministerial travel for my Department since May 2010 are as follows:

	£
(a) Ministerial car	21,000
(b) Trains	2,384.93
(c) Buses	0
(d) Commercial aircraft	55,310
(e) Private aircraft	0

On becoming Secretary of State I decided not to travel between Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a routine basis by private jet, which had been previous practice, thus saving the taxpayer large sums of money.

Decisions about ministerial travel are taken in line with section 10 of the Ministerial Code.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General on what date he last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times he has travelled to his constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50184]

The Attorney-General: Exact records are not maintained on my day-to-day usage of ministerial cars; however, I can confirm that I do make regular use of the ministerial car allocated to my Department.

The car has never been used for journeys between Westminster and my constituency.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in the Law Officers' Departments last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in the Law Officers' Departments has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50092]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officer's do make use of public transport in London on government business but such journeys are not routinely recorded and it is therefore not possible to provide this information.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General whether he has been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by the Law Officers' Departments for use while travelling on Government business. [50181]

The Solicitor-General: Neither of the Law Officers has been issued with any form of travel card.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments have spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50218]

The Attorney-General: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Ministerial travel since 1 May 2010

	£
Ministerial car	105,100
Train	2,480
Bus	0
Commercial aircraft	1,100
Private aircraft	0
Total	108,680

Spend is based on all invoices paid to date and not necessarily costs incurred to date.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General what guidance is provided to the Crown Prosecution Service on the prosecution of men who use prostitutes who subsequently report to the police that such people might have been trafficked. [51006]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) issued guidance to prosecutors in March 2010, before the offence of paying for the sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force, threats or any other form of coercion or deception came into effect on 1 April 2010.

The guidance defines the meaning of each of the elements of the offence. It also provides guidance on charging practice and outlines the reasons for the introduction of the offence, which is to address the demand for prostitution services and reduce all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. The offence is wider than criminalising those who use prostitutes who may have been trafficked, as it also includes those who use all prostitutes who may be exploited, but who have not been trafficked. There is no specific guidance on the prosecution of men who have reported to the police that the prostitute has been trafficked.

Public Order

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Attorney-General if he will direct the Crown Prosecution Service to apply for remand in custody in the case of those charged with public order offences following the disturbances in central London on 26 March 2011. [50142]

The Attorney-General: The decision whether to apply for a remand in custody, in the case of those charged with public order offences following the disturbances in central London on 26 March 2011, will be taken by the Crown Prosecution Service on a case-by-case basis. Remands in custody will only be sought where grounds under the Bail Act 1976 exist to support such an action.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* granted and *(b)* breached in the criminal justice area covering Poole in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [50520]

James Brokenshire: Poole is in the Dorset Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, and 2009 is the latest year for which figures on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are available. In that year, 16 ASBOs were issued in the Dorset CJS area and 10 ASBOs issued in Dorset were proved in court to have been breached for the first time.

An ASBO can be issued in one CJS area and breached in another. ASBOs may also be breached more than once, and in more than one year. As a result, while the latter figure represents instances when an ASBO was breached for the first time in 2009, some of these may be breaches of ASBOs issued in previous years.

Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what health risks associated to the use of skunk cannabis her Department has identified; and if she will make a statement. [50030]

James Brokenshire: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), the Government's independent expert drug advisers, has assessed the evidence on the health harms of cannabis, including the risks to young people.

In its latest report, "Cannabis: Classification and Public Health (2008)", the ACMD found that cannabis has a number of acute and chronic health effects and that prolonged use can induce dependence.

It also found a probable but weak causal link between psychotic illness, such as schizophrenia, and cannabis use. It further stated that whether this would become stronger with the wider use of higher potency cannabis (sinsemilla—sometimes referred to as "skunk") was uncertain. There has been no decisive new research since the 2008 ACMD report.

The ACMD publishes its reports on the Home Office website available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/acmd/

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average THC content of seized skunk cannabis was in the latest period for which figures are available; what the average THC content of cannabis seizures was *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years ago; and if she will make a statement. [50071]

James Brokenshire: The latest data from the Forensic Science Service Ltd (FSS) show that the average tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of mature flowering tops from plants, otherwise known as sinsemilla, seized and submitted to the FSS from the 1 January 2008 to the present day was 14.0%. By comparison, during the same period, the average THC content of traditional imported cannabis and cannabis resin was 12.5% and 5.5% respectively.

Information on average THC levels of cannabis available in the UK prior to 2008 is available in the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs 2008 report "Cannabis: Classification and Public Health", which can be found on the Home Office website via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/acmd/reports-research/

This summarises data available at that time, including FSS data from 1995 to 2007 and data from the Home Office's Cannabis Potency Study 2008, published by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch. Information on average THC levels of cannabis prior to 1995 is not available.

Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of persons convicted of offences of *(a)* murder of and *(b)* actual bodily harm against a woman in England and Wales in each year since 1998 who had previously stalked or harassed the victim. [49856]

James Brokenshire: The requested data relating to actual bodily harm convictions are not collected by either the Ministry of Justice or Home Office.

Available data relate to offences recorded as homicide by police forces in England and Wales between 2007-08 and 2009-10, and have been extracted from the Home Office's Homicide Index. The following table shows the number of female homicide victims, where court proceedings have resulted in at least one person being convicted of murder and the victim had previously been harassed or stalked by one (or more) of the suspects. Data on whether homicide victims had previously been, harassed or stalked have only been collected since April 2007.

Offences[1] currently recorded by the police as homicide of a female resulting in murder conviction where victim was previously stalked/harassed: England and Wales, 2007-08 to 2009-10[2]

Year[2]	*Number*
2007-08	2
2008-09	4
2009-10	8

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

The data are as at 28 September 2010 and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. This is particularly the case for the years presented given the time it can take to bring suspects to trial. It should also be noted that the data do not relate to the number of suspects convicted, and that the victim may not necessarily have been harassed or stalked by the person convicted of murder.

Criminal Records Bureau: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of Poole constituency were subject to more than one Criminal Records Bureau check in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [50521]

Lynne Featherstone: The information is not available in the absence of the particular constituency post codes. The Criminal Records Bureau can provide the information requested if you write to the chief executive with the constituency postcodes that apply.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful matches there have been between DNA profiles taken and crime scenes and DNA profiles stored on the National DNA Database in each of the last five years. [50012]

James Brokenshire: The table shows the number of matches on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) where one or more DNA subject sample profiles were matched with a DNA crime scene profile for each of the last five years. The figures do not include matches as a result of one-off speculative searches of the NDNAD or from comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory. One-off speculative searches and DNA profile comparisons are used mainly in the investigation of serious crimes such as murder and rape.

The match figures provided are for all UK police forces.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Table 1: Number of NDNAD matches where one or more DNA subject profiles matched with a DNA crime scene in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Number of NDNAD matches
2005-06	49,247
2006-07	44,224
2007-08	40,406
2008-09	40,687
2009-10	36,399

Note:
The figures do not include matches as a result of one-off speculative searches of the NDNAD or from comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many searches of the National DNA Database there have been in each of the last five years. [50013]

James Brokenshire: Each new subject or crime scene sample profile loaded to the national DNA database (NDNAD) is routinely searched against all other subject and crime scene sample profiles on the database.

In addition, speculative searches of crime scene profiles against the NDNAD are carried out as a specialist service without loading the crime scene profile to the NDNAD. There are two types of speculative searches: premium and standard.

The following table shows the number of routine searches on the loading of a subject profile, crime scene profiles and premium and standard speculative searches on the NDNAD for each of the last five years. The figures provided are for all UK forces.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Number of searches of the NDNAD by type in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Crime scene profiles loaded and searched	*Subject profiles loaded and searched*	*Premium speculative searches*	*Standard speculative searches*
2005-06	68,774	715,145	[1]286	4,093
2006-07	55,217	722,475	1,299	4,562
2007-08	50,579	591,028	717	5,000
2008-09	49,572	580,174	728	9,788
2009-10	43,974	540,333	560	6,380

[1] Data are only available from December 2005 to March 2006.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the running cost of the National DNA Database was in each of the last five years. [50014]

James Brokenshire: The costs of operating the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in the last five years are shown in the following table. It is not possible to break these figures down into capital and running costs. The costs shown in successive years are not comparable because of changes in the roles of the Forensic Science Service, Home Office and the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) over the period.

Table 1: Operating costs of the NDNAD in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10

		Costs	£ *Total*
2005-06	Operating costs	1,704,343	1,704,343
2006-07	Operating costs	2,569,410	2,569,420
2007-08	Operating costs	2,174,904	2,174,904
2008-09	Operating costs	3,330,500	[1]4,290,500
	NDNAD Transition Project	960,000	[1]—
2009-10	Operating costs	2,781,930	[1]6,504,263
	NDNAD Transition Project and NDNAD Enhancements	3,594,000	[1]—

[1] Indicates a brace.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the National DNA Database was inaccessible owing to system error in each of the last five years. [50017]

James Brokenshire: The following table shows the number of occasions in the last four years on which the national DNA database was inaccessible, other than as part of planned maintenance. These occasions may have resulted either from system error or from any other event which resulted in the entire system being unavailable. Information is not available for the period before 2007. On these occasions, no significant degradation in service to the police was experienced and no police investigation was compromised.

Number of occasions when the NDNAD was inaccessible in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11

	Number
2007-08	8
2008-09	9
2009-10	7
2010-11	8

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the DNA samples and exhibits on the National DNA Database following the winding-down of the Forensic Science Service. [50104]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) and other forensic science providers derive DNA profiles from biological samples taken by the police and submit them to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) for loading onto the National DNA Database (NDNAD). It is the profiles on the NDNAD that are the primary focus of the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Consideration is currently being given to the destruction of profiling records held by all forensic suppliers. The NPIA is already working on proposals for the implementation of the Bill should it be given Royal Assent in early 2012.

Domestic Violence

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much she has allocated for assistance to victims of domestic violence in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [47726]

Lynne Featherstone: For the next four years the Home Office has committed over £28 million of funding for specialist services to tackle violence against women and girls.

For domestic violence this includes funding:

Towards the national helplines including the National Domestic Violence helpline, the Men's Advice Line and Broken Rainbow

To support Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs) nationally

To invest in the training and quality assurance process for MARACs and IDVAs

To contribute to the running of the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit.

Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on implementation of the recommendations of the Third Report of the Home Affairs Committee, Session 2001-02, on "The Government's drug policy: is it working?" HC 318; and if she will make a statement. [50687]

James Brokenshire: The Government's policy on drugs has been clearly articulated in the new Drug Strategy which was published in December 2010.

Fraud: Elections

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested on suspicion of having committed electoral offences in England and Wales in each year since 2005. [50425]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The information requested on arrests for the specific offence mentioned cannot be separately identified from the arrests collection.

Homicide

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many murders there have been for which there has been no conviction in each of the last 30 years. [49496]

James Brokenshire: Available data are collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales, and have been extracted from the Homicide Index. The following table shows the number of offences recorded as homicide—murder, manslaughter, infanticide—between 1980 and 2009-10 for which no one has been convicted. It is not possible to separately identify those offences recorded as murder.

Data are as at 28 September 2010 and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. This is particularly the case for offences recorded during 2008-09 and 2009-10 given the time it can take to bring suspects to trial.

The data include cases for which: the principal suspect committed suicide or died before proceedings could be initiated or before proceedings could be concluded; the suspect was found to be insane; all suspects were acquitted and police investigations are continuing; and, no suspects have been charged.

Offences[1] currently recorded by the police as homicide[2] not resulting in conviction[3]: England and Wales, 1980 to 2009-10[4]

	Total offences	*Offences with no conviction[3]*	*Proportion (%)*
1980	535	81	15
1981	501	88	18
1982	557	121	22
1983	482	84	17
1984	537	106	20
1985	536	107	20
1986	563	103	18
1987	600	123	21
1988	547	97	18
1989	521	109	21
1990	554	124	22
1991	622	147	24
1992	581	116	20
1993	566	103	18
1994	633	146	23
1995	662	153	23
1996	586	130	22
1997	608	157	26
1997-98	606	151	25
1998-99	642	153	24
1999-2000	672	214	32
2000-01	765	203	27
2001-02	794	228	29
2002-03[5]	943	384	41
2003-04	772	226	29
2004-05	780	219	28
2005-06	709	247	35
2006-07	715	265	37
2007-08	744	274	37
2008-09	644	257	40
2009-10	619	430	69

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences recorded as murder, manslaughter or infanticide.

[3] includes cases with outcome of: court proceedings pending; suspect found by court to be insane, suspect died/committed suicide before proceedings were initiated or could he concluded; all suspects acquitted; no suspects charged.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[5] Includes 172 victims of Dr Harold Shipman.

Metropolitan Police Authority: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of changes to funding allocation to the Metropolitan Police Authority budget on *(a)* police numbers and *(b)* Safer Neighbourhood teams in the London borough of Southwark. [47304]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The vast majority of funding that the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) receives from central Government is allocated using the Police Allocation Formula (PAF), which allocates funding based on the relative need of forces. It is only right that decisions about how these resources are used are made locally and so no central Government assessment has been undertaken.

However, on 10 February the Mayor of London announced in his budget statement that he was proposing to increase funding for the Met by £42 million and that this additional funding would be used to recruit police officers and protect Safer Neighbourhood teams.

Police: Forensic Science

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the level of spending by each police force on providing their own forensic science support in each of the last three years; and what estimate she has made of levels of such expenditure in 2011-12. [50146]

James Brokenshire: Data collected by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in its Police Objective Analysis (POA) suggest that total spend on investigative support (excluding external forensics) by 43 forces was approximately £250 million in 2009-10. This figure is estimated to be closer to £260 million for 2010-11 but actuals are not yet available. POAs were first collated in 2009-10 so comparable information is not available prior to this; nor is 2011-12 estimated data available.

Investigative support includes scenes of crime officers, fingerprint and DNA bureaus, photography/image recovery and any other forensics services.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of potential changes to police numbers over the next two years on arrangements for policing the London 2012 Olympics. [49527]

Nick Herbert: By improving efficiency, driving out waste, and increasing productivity, the service can make the savings required while protecting its frontline policing capacity, including in relation to the London 2012 Olympics.

The Government will make up to £600 million available, if required, for additional policing and wider security for London 2012. At this stage, with 16 months before the Games begin, we estimate that it should be possible to deliver the core cross-Government safety and security programme for about £475 million. We will continue to keep security planning and policing for the Games under review, but we are satisfied that sufficient funding has been made available to deliver the security programme in full.

Remand in Custody

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people charged in connection with disturbances in central London on 26 March 2011 have been remanded in custody. [50141]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. As of 30 March, 149 individuals have been charged with offences resulting from the disorder on 26 March.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Poverty

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what dates he consulted the Child Poverty Commission in accordance with the Child Poverty Act 2010 in advance of proposals to publish a Child Poverty Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [50108]

Maria Miller: We have not yet established the Child Poverty Commission.

We believe the Commission must have a remit which will allow it to hold Government to account and drive progress towards reducing child poverty. We cannot justify establishing an independent commission which does not perform these functions effectively. This is why we have chosen to consult with our stakeholders and to carefully consider how the Commission should be taken forward, rather than rushing to set it up.

Meeting the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010 would have meant that a Child Poverty Commission was established for a very short time before replacing it with a new Commission that reflected a different approach from that provided for in the previous legislation. This would have utilised resources and effort that we think can be more properly and efficiently employed in establishing the new and more effective Commission.

Our plans for establishing a Commission will be set out in the Child Poverty Strategy, to be published shortly.

Departmental Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case. [45691]

Chris Grayling: I have arranged for the list of procurement projects engaged upon which had a named senior responsible owner by *(a)* DWP and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies and agencies to be placed in the Library.

Information relating to the date that each senior responsible owner was appointed is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Bodies

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board. [48690]

Maria Miller: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies' reform. That statement also announced that

Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate that net overall administrative savings from the abolition of the Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board over the spending review period of 2011-12 to 2014-15 will be minimal as the board has not been fully operational for some time. Expenditure for 2010-11 was £5,000.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [48692]

Maria Miller: As part of the Public Bodies Bill, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be abolished as a non-departmental public body, and its functions transferred to the Secretary of State as an Executive agency of the Department.

The level of savings resulting from this change in status has been estimated as minimal beyond any one-off transitional costs. This is because the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for all practical purposes has almost all the delivery-focused activities of an Executive agency. The principal differences lie in its legal status and the responsibilities of its board. The decision to change the status of Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission was made to increase ministerial responsibility and accountability for child maintenance policy, and not to generate savings.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of Equality 2025. [48763]

Maria Miller: Following the NDPB review, there has been no change in function for Equality 2025, therefore there are no savings. Equality 2025's remit remains to provide confidential advice to Government on issues that affect the lives of disabled people.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Pensions Ombudsman and the Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman. [48807]

Steve Webb: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I estimate that there will not be any net overall administrative savings from the merger of the Pensions Ombudsman with the Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman over the spending review period.

The Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman and the Pensions Ombudsman already function as a single operational unit. The merger will formalise the current arrangements by putting them on a statutory basis and so will deliver a more streamlined approach and simplify the pensions institutional landscape.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48433]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold central records itemising assets taken with a value of over £100. Information is recorded at local level and it would incur a disproportionate cost to obtain the information requested.

The Department's IT equipment is leased from service providers. Excluding lower value items, there have been 41 reported thefts of individual items of equipment, including laptop computers and BlackBerry phone devices since 12 May 2010.

In all cases of theft the matter is fully investigated and appropriate action taken by the Department. Where the item concerned is not recovered, the police will be informed as a matter of routine.

In the case of the above items, to date, none has been recovered.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each (i) age group and (ii) local authority area received the (A) higher and (B) lower rate of disability living allowance (1) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (2) in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [45620]

Maria Miller: The information has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Blaenau Gwent

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants of local housing allowance in Blaenau Gwent constituency *(a)* are making additional payments to cover the difference between benefit received and rent paid and *(b)* will be required to make an additional payment to cover the difference between benefit received and rent paid from April 2011. [49608]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at constituency level.

The Department published a document on the "Two Year Review of the Local Housing" in February 2011, which includes current shortfall values at the Government Office Region level, in Figure 3.3. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

On 23 July the Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12". This included estimates of the number of losers and average losses per week for each local authority and each bedroom entitlement category. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Wolverhampton North East constituency who *(a)* were affected by his Department's recent changes to entitlement to mortgage interest payments and *(b)* will be affected in the 12 months following the change. [49838]

Steve Webb: The change in the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest applies to all customers who receive that help as part of their benefit.

In May 2010, the latest period for which figures are available, the number of jobseeker's allowance customers in Wolverhampton North East constituency is given in the table.

No estimate has been made of the number of jobseeker's allowance customers who will be affected over 12 months following the change to the standard interest rate at which support for mortgage interest is paid.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in receipt of mortgage interest in the Wolverhampton North East constituency—May 2010

	Number
Wolverhampton North East	*100

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are based on 5% sample data. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Numbers marked "*" are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.
4. Caseload figures have been uprated by using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data.
5. Due to a problem with the latest data for August 2010, which is being investigated, we have provided data for May 2010 until this is resolved.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples

Mortgages: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wolverhampton North East constituency received support for mortgage interest payments in each of the last five years. [49830]

Steve Webb: As requested, Table 1 presents the total number of claimants, in receipt of either pension credit (PC), income support (IS) or jobseeker's allowance (JSA), receiving support for mortgage interest in Wolverhampton North East constituency between August 2006 and May 2010.

Table 1: Total number of claimants of PC, IS, JSA receiving mortgage interest in Wolverhampton North East constituency

	PC, IS, JSA claimants receiving mortgage Interest
August 2006	[1]400
August 2007	[1]400
August 2008	[1]300
August 2009	[1]300
May 2010	[1]400

Table 1: Total number of claimants of PC, IS, JSA receiving mortgage interest in Wolverhampton North East constituency

PC, IS, JSA claimants receiving mortgage Interest

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are based on 5% sample data. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Caseload figures have been uprated by using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data.
4. Figures provided are a point in time estimate at August in each year 2006 to 2009.
5. Due to a problem with the latest data for August 2010, which is being investigated, we have provided data for May 2010 until this is resolved.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Remploy: Social Enterprises

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential for Remploy factories to become independent social enterprises. [47966]

Maria Miller: The coalition Government believe that social enterprises provide a valuable model to support disabled and disadvantaged people into work.

Remploy as part of its five-year modernisation plan is developing the social enterprise model in five sites including the Bridgend factory. This model focuses on the local market conditions and the skills and expertise of employees in order to identify a suitable and viable social enterprise business. Social entrepreneurs, with the input and support of organisations such as co-operative societies, are supporting the incubation of these businesses.

Within Bridgend, social enterprise businesses have been developed in recycling and kit assembly and the company will continue to explore, with the factory employees, any social enterprise opportunities in their local area.

On 2 December 2010, I announced an independent review of the support that the Government provide to disabled people who want to work. We will publish the outcome of the review in the summer.

Ritalin: Children

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for which benefits a household with a child who is prescribed Ritalin qualifies; [51021]

(2) how many children qualified for disability living allowance as a result of being prescribed Ritalin in each year from 1997 to 2010. [51022]

Maria Miller: No benefits are awarded because a person is prescribed a form of medication.

Entitlement to disability living allowance is not dependent on having a specific health condition or diagnosis, but on whether the severely disabled person needs help with personal care and/or their mobility difficulties.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Poole constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* disability living allowance. [50548]

Maria Miller: The information is provided as follows:

Claimants of employment and support allowance, disability living allowance, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance—August 2010

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	*Employment and support allowance*	*Disability living allowance (in payment)*
Parliamentary constituency Poole	2,540	720	3,820

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. For disability living allowance the totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. A claimant can be in receipt of more than one of these benefits and will therefore be counted for each benefit they receive.
4. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
5. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from disability groups on the effect of proposed changes to the *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* independent living fund; and if he will make a statement. [48971]

Maria Miller: Since disability living allowance (DLA) reform was announced in the Budget in June 2010, my officials and I have met disabled people and a large number of disability organisations to discuss our proposals. We published a public consultation on DLA reform on 6 December 2010, which ended on 18 February 2011. The Department received a large number of responses to this consultation, with more than 5,000 individual and 500 organisational responses. We are considering these responses and will publish our response shortly.

The Government's position on the independent living fund was set out in the written ministerial statement issued on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS. This made clear that the independent living fund will remain closed permanently to new applications and we will safeguard the position of existing recipients by carrying out a formal consultation on future support for existing ILF users, while continuing to administer their awards throughout this Parliament. This consultation will take place following the publication of the report by the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support.

I have met with a number of disability organisations and other bodies to discuss the future of the independent living fund. These include the Chair of Equality 2025, the all-party parliamentary group on disability, the Disability Charities Consortium and the Disabled Peoples Organisations Group.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 575W, on social security benefits: fraud, if he will estimate the number of investigations of individuals suspected of benefit fraud which have taken more than nine months in the latest period for which figures are available. [50818]

Chris Grayling: The information requested cannot be estimated from the management information available, as to collate these data would incur a disproportionate cost.

Swimming Pools

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of the effectiveness in prevention of cryptosporidium of the operation of regulations on water quality in public swimming pools. [49942]

Chris Grayling: The regulations covering the quality of water in the UK apply to the supply of water for domestic use. They do not apply to the quality of water in use in swimming pools.

Swimming pool operators however do have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the public are not exposed to risks to their health and safety when bathing.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 specifically require pool operators to assess the risks to the health of their employees and bathers from hazardous substances, including microbiological organisms such as cryptosporidium, and take effective measures to control that risk.

HSE believes that compliance with these regulations should ensure that the risk of exposure to cryptosporidium in public swimming pools is reduced, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department gave to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much it has allocated in funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48513]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies do not ordinarily directly fund charities. The Department does, however, work closely with charities and voluntary organisations to help people access the services and benefits to which they are entitled.

The Department also encourages a wide range of providers from the voluntary and charitable sectors—alongside providers in the private and public sectors—to contract with it to deliver employment programmes. It is not possible, however, to identify payments made to charitable organisations except at disproportionate cost; the Department's payment systems identify the individual recipients, but do not show the status of those recipients i.e. whether they are private, public, charitable or voluntary sector organisations.

Unemployment: Wales

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the trends in levels of unemployment in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Cardiff and *(c)* Cardiff North constituency since January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [49815]

Chris Grayling: Latest figures on the headline ILO measure of unemployment only cover the period up to January 2011 in Wales and September 2010 for localities within Wales. More recent information is available from the seasonally adjusted claimant count, which shows that between January and February 2011 the number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Wales fell 1,100 to 70,300. The claimant unemployment rate in Wales in February 2011 was 5.0%, down 0.1 percentage points on the previous month.

Information on the claimant count in Cardiff and Cardiff North constituency is also available for February 2011, although the figures are not seasonally adjusted so a comparison with the previous month would not provide a reliable guide to the trend in unemployment. The figures in the following table show the latest year-on-year changes in the claimant count in Cardiff local authority district and Cardiff North constituency.

	Cardiff local authority district		*Cardiff North constituency*	
	Number	*Proportion*	*Number*	*Proportion*
January 2010	9,687	4.2%	1,489	2.6%
February 2010	9,894	4.3%	1,498	2.6%
January 2011	9,739	4.2%	1,449	2.5%
February 2011	9,835	4.2%	1,460	2.6%
Change on year to January 2011	+52	0	-40	-0.1
Change on year to February 2011	-59	-0.1	-38	0

Notes:
1. The claimant count proportions shown are as a proportion of the population aged 16-64. This is different from the unemployment rate which is traditionally calculated as a proportion of the active labour force. Claimant unemployment rates are not available below regional level.
2. Proportions are rounded to one decimal place

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Universal Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 869W, on universal credit, in which instances it would be appropriate to split payments of universal credit between partners or spouses in shared households. [49240]

Chris Grayling: The answer to which the hon. Member refers sets out the intention to pay universal credit as a single sum per household, including couple households.

As mentioned, however, there may be exceptional cases that require alternative arrangements and we are considering the circumstances for and details of these alternative arrangements. Alternative arrangements might include dividing payments between two or more parties.

Further information is available in the universal credit briefing note which has been published on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 869W, on universal credit, what his policy is concerning situations where a couple household requests that the payment of universal credit be split between the two partners or spouses. [49241]

Chris Grayling: As already set out, ordinarily the universal credit payment will be made as a single sum to the household. In recognition of the fact that different households organise their finances and budget in different ways, we are allowing couples to decide between them whether the money goes to a joint bank account or to one or other of them. We are not intending that couples will be able to choose for the payment to be divided between them by routine.

However, there may be exceptional cases that require alternative arrangements and the Government intend to retain power to arrange payments to couples to offer safeguards. We are considering the circumstances for and details of these alternative arrangements, which might include division of the payment. Work is ongoing.

The Government already have and will retain the power to direct payments to the other partner where there is proven abuse of the money, and this current practice can be triggered by notification by one of the partners. Circumstances for alternative arrangements in exceptional cases could include request or notification by either member of a couple to continue this approach.

Further information is available in the universal credit briefing note which has been published on the Department for Work and Pensions website.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what measure of inflation will be used for the annual uprating of cash payments made to individuals with a potentially lower entitlement under universal credit than under current tax credit and benefit arrangements; [49803]

(2) whether transitional cash payments to individuals with a lower entitlement under universal credit will continue until there is a change in the financial circumstances of such individuals. [49855]

Chris Grayling: Any cash protection awarded to individuals with a potentially lower entitlement under universal credit will not be uprated but will be fixed at the point of transition. It will remain in place until the claimant's circumstances change or the universal credit entitlement exceeds the protected amount.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the provision of winter fuel allowance to those *(a)* aged 60 to 79 at the rate of £250 per year and *(b)* aged 80 or over at the rate of £400 per year in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Great Britain and (v) the UK in 2011; [49938]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the provision of winter fuel allowance to those *(a)* aged 60 to 79 at the rate of (i) £200 and (ii) £250 per year and *(b)* aged 80 or over at the rate of (A) £300 and (B) £400 per year in (1) Glasgow North East constituency, (2) Glasgow, (3) Scotland, (4) Great Britain and (5) the UK in each of the next four calendar years. [49939]

Steve Webb: The information is not available as requested. Forecasts of winter fuel payments are made on financial years rather than calendar years, and estimates for the United Kingdom are not available as the Department for Work and Pensions is only responsible for Great Britain winter fuel payments.

The information that is available is in the following tables.

Glasgow North East constituency

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200/£300	79 and under	2	2	2	2
	80 and over	1	1	1	1
	All ages	3	3	3	2
£250/£400	79 and under	2	2	2	2
	80 and over	1	1	1	1
	All ages	3	3	3	3

City of Glasgow local authority

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200/£300	79 and under	11	11	11	11
	80 and over	5	5	5	6
	All ages	17	16	16	16
£250/£400	79 and under	14	14	14	13
	80 and over	7	7	7	7
	All ages	21	21	21	21

Scotland Government office region

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200/£300	79 and under	130	127	124	122
	80 and over	54	55	56	58
	All ages	184	182	181	179
£250/£400	79 and under	162	159	156	152
	80 and over	72	74	75	77
	All ages	235	233	231	229

Great Britain

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200/£300	79 and under	1,447	1,417	1,388	1,358
	80 and over	677	691	705	720
	All ages	2,124	2,108	2,093	2,078
£250/£400	79 and under	1,808	1,771	1,735	1,698
	80 and over	906	924	943	963

Great Britain

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
	All ages	2,714	2,695	2,678	2,661

Notes:

1. Expenditure on winter fuel payments is rounded to the nearest £1 million. Age breakdowns may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Expenditure on the '79 and under' age group includes payments to people over women's state pension age, which is increasing from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2018. People under women's state pension age (both men and women) are not eligible for winter fuel payments.
3. Great Britain forecasts of winter fuel payments are consistent with Budget 2011 forecasts.
4. Projections of winter fuel payments on a constituency, local authority and Government office region level use latest administrative data to apportion total GB expenditure over the requested geography.
5. Forecasts do not include winter fuel payments made to eligible recipients now resident in other European economic area countries or Switzerland, which is why these GB forecasts may differ from published forecasts that do include such overseas spending.

Source:

DWP statistical and accounting data.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the average winter fuel bill for pensioner households represented by the *(a)* £100 reduction and *(b)* £50 reduction in winter fuel payments proposed over winter 2011-12; and what assessment he has made of the effects on fuel poverty of the proposed removal of the enhanced rate of the winter fuel payment in 2011-12 for pensioners under (i) 80 and (ii) over 80 years; and if he will make a statement. [50297]

Steve Webb: In winter 2011-12, winter fuel payments will be paid exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government. The standard rates of winter fuel payments will be £200 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

(a) For households where there is someone aged 80 or over, the winter fuel payment is £100 less in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11. For this group it is estimated that £100 represents around 15% of the average winter fuel bill.

(b) For households where there is someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80, the winter fuel payment is £50 less in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11. For this group it is estimated that £50 represents around 7% of the average winter fuel bill.

Information on the fuel poverty impact for (i) pensioners under 80 and (ii) pensioners over 80 years is not available separately. For both groups combined the impact of the removal of the temporary increase in winter fuel payments is estimated at 25,000 more households in fuel poverty in England.

Additional support is available through cold weather payments for regions that suffer particularly cold weather and we have made permanent the increase in these payments from £8.50 to £25 a week from 2011-12 onwards. Subject to parliamentary approval, from winter 2011-12 some of the poorest pensioners would get direct assistance with their energy costs through a rebate off their electricity bills under the warm home discount scheme. Rebates would be at least £120.

Notes:

1. Family Spending 2010 (Living Costs and Food Survey 2009) is used to determine household expenditure on fuel by age. This information uses weekly amounts to create an average annual fuel bill. Winter fuel bills are estimated as being between 60% and 70% of the annual bill based on DECC information (in table 2 for gas and table 3 for electricity) of:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/publications/trends/articles_issue/559-trendssep10-domestic-energy-bills-article.pdf

2. The fuel and light inflation rate, published by the ONS, is used to estimate the energy bills as at February 2011.

Work Capacity Assessment

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average period is between the date of a work capacity assessment and a referral to an employment provider for those found capable of work *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each local authority area. [39769]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

TRANSPORT

Commission for Integrated Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what residual functions will remain following the abolition of the Commission for Integrated Transport; which organisation will carry out each such function; what the estimated costs of each such function are; and what transfer of funds will be made to each organisation to carry out each such function. [46487]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport abolished the Commission for Integrated Transport as we concluded that our emphasis should now be on high-level strategic advice rather than the detailed research undertaken by the Commission. We will receive this advice by engaging directly with experts in a number of ways, including through a new informal strategic transport advisory group, rather than an arm's length body. We are currently developing our thinking on these options, including the group, and will publish our conclusions in the next few months.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of BRB (Residuary) Ltd. [48689]

Mrs Villiers: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1055W. This is our best current estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of BRB (Residuary) Ltd.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the equality impact assessment in respect of the abolition of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. [49835]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's proposals have been through a preliminary impact assessment process, including an equalities impact assessment. Full impact assessment documents will be published as part of the consultation process in the coming months.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which organisations have been consulted by his Department's review group assessing the feasibility and safety of proposed changes to the motorcycle test; [50822]

(2) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland on proposals for alterations to the motorcycle test; [50829]

(3) who the members are of his Department's review group to assess the feasibility and safety of the changes proposed for the motorcycle test; [50830]

(4) when his Department's review group assessing the feasibility and safety of the proposals to change the motorcycle test will report. [50893]

Mike Penning: A public consultation was held on the scope of the review in June/July 2010. There were 489 responses, mainly from motorcyclists (including learners and experienced), motorcycle trainers and examiners. There will be a further consultation on proposed changes to the motorcycle test in due course.

There have so far been no formal discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers or the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland. There have been informal discussions with the DfT/ACPO liaison officer.

There is a working group and a technical sub-group assessing the feasibility and safety of the changes proposed for the motorcycle test.

Members of the working group are:

Department for Transport
Driving Standards Agency
Motorcycle Industry Association
Motorcycle Industry Trainers Association
Motorcycle Action Group
British Motorcyclists Federation
Public and Commercial Services Union
Road Safety Great Britain
Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety was also involved in the initial stages of the review.

Members of the technical sub group are:

Department for Transport
Driving Standards Agency
Motorcycle Industry Association
Motorcycle Industry Trainers Association
Motorcycle Action Group
Public and Commercial Services Union
Biketrain Wales
CamRider
Streetwise Training

Fast-Trak Training was also involved in the initial stages of the review.

An interim report from the working group was published on the DfT website on 20 December 2010. There will be a further report later this year.

East Coast Trains: Timetables

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the East Coast Trains timetable due to be introduced in May 2011 to be published. [50002]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* East Coast's May 2011 timetable was published on its website on Monday 14 February 2011. Tickets are now available for purchase using the usual channels.

Large Goods Vehicles

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to introduce a road user charging system for foreign heavy goods vehicles. [50050]

Mike Penning: In April 2014. A road user charging scheme will apply both to UK and foreign-registered vehicles, although we intend to compensate UK hauliers for the extra costs involved.

Legislation

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to bring into force sections of primary legislation within his Department's area of responsibility which are not currently in force. [50452]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* Active consideration is being given to commencing the following provisions (to the extent they are not already commenced):

(a) section 35 of the Road Safety Act 2006 (which relates to a reduced disqualification period for attendance on a course);

(b) sections 2, 4 and 5 of the Local Transport Act 2008 (which relate to traffic commissioner areas);

(c) the Driving Instruction (Suspension and Exemption Powers) Act 2009;and

(d) sections 161, 165 and 167 of the Equality Act 2010 (which relate to taxis and private hire vehicles).

LEK Partnership

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings he has had with representatives of LEK Consulting in 2011 to date. [49877]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not had any meetings with LEK Consulting in 2011 to date. I met with LEK Bus Profitability Research on 15 June 2010.

London Underground

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in awarding a contract for sub-surface signalling on the London underground. [51007]

Mrs Villiers: London Underground Ltd, who are accountable to the Mayor of London, are responsible for the award of this contract.

London-Norwich Railway Line

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions Ministers in his Department travelled on rail services between Norwich and London in the course of their official duties in each of the last 10 years. [49156]

Norman Baker: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions bus services replaced passenger rail services for all or part of the journey between Norwich and London Liverpool Street owing to *(a)* routine and *(b)* non-routine maintenance in each year since 2007. [49160]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold data on replacement bus services for National Express East Anglia. While Network Rail is responsible for the maintenance of the infrastructure, the provision of replacement bus services is the responsibility of the train operating company. My hon. Friend may wish to contact National Express East Anglia, contact details for which can be found on its website:

www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com

Mersey Gateway Project

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce the funding package for the Mersey Gateway Bridge scheme. [50453]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* We are still considering the funding proposal from Halton borough council for the Mersey Gateway Bridge scheme and hope to announce the final funding arrangements as soon as possible. This is the largest scheme with the most complex funding proposal of any scheme in the Department for Transport's supported pool of local authority promoted major transport schemes.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will conduct a promotional campaign aimed at young drivers to make them aware of the requirement to hold valid motor insurance; and if he will make a statement; [50569]

(2) what his policy is on the introduction of continuous insurance enforcement for motor vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [50688]

Mike Penning: The Continuous Insurance Enforcement scheme, which will mean that the registered keeper of a motor vehicle must keep it insured at all times unless they have made a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN), is planned to start in late spring.

This will follow a full publicity campaign to raise awareness of the scheme with motorists. The Department for Transport continues to work closely with the insurance industry on communications activity and the message has been promoted through the media, in information mailed out by Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency with vehicle tax reminders and on:

www.direct.gov.uk/stayinsured

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the scale of risks to young drivers seeking motor insurance; and if he will initiate a consultation on policy options to address the cost of motor insurance for young drivers. [50689]

Mike Penning: I recognise that the rising cost of motor insurance is a problem to young people. The higher premiums faced by young drivers reflect the cost to insurers of providing cover but the Government are concerned that it may tempt some to drive uninsured. The cost of motor insurance has been raised in correspondence to the Department and at the recent Transport Select Committee.

I wish to work with the motor insurance industry to identify ways in which we can develop insurance products that offer incentives to those young drivers who may be willing to accept restrictions or take additional training. A seminar to look at the issues is planned for May. There are no current plans for formal consultation.

Network Rail

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the restructuring of Network Rail in 2011. [49831]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money study will present its final conclusions shortly. Sir Roy's recommendations and the industry's response to them will shape the Government's proposals for the reform of the industry, which we intend to set out later this year.

Network Rail: Electrification

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* scale is of the work his Department plans to carry out with the Welsh Assembly Government on electrification of commuter rail lines in the South Wales valleys in the period before the commencement of the next control period. [48110]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport will work with the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a business case for the electrification of the lines north of Cardiff to Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Coryton and Rhymney and the lines west of Cardiff to Penarth and Barry.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many residents of *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* England appealed against penalty charge notices and were successful in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [50517]

Norman Baker: The most recent report of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal available at:

www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk/downloads/Annual_Statistics_of_the_Traffic_Penalty_Tribunal_0809.pdf

gives the figures for 2008-09 for councils in England (outside London) with civil parking enforcement powers, including the borough of Poole. The Tribunal does not compile statistics for individual parliamentary constituencies.

Railways: Construction

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the arrangements for the public consultation on High Speed 2 have been subjected to an equalities impact assessment. [44115]

Mr Philip Hammond: My Department and HS2 Ltd have actively considered equality impacts when planning the consultation, including ensuring that the consultation materials have been published in a usable and accessible way to the widest possible audience, regardless of disability, capability or technology. Public facing events have been planned along the London to west midlands route at around 30 locations and the venues were considered in terms of public transport provision and access for disabled and reduced mobility people, to ensure they were suitable. HS2 Ltd is also speaking with councils about specific measures to ensure the consultation reaches equality groups.

Railways: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the adequacy of the assistance available for disabled passengers to board trains at unstaffed train stations. [48267]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 24 March 2011]:* Provision of assistance for disabled passengers is an operational matter for train operating companies (TOC). TOCs must commit to provide assistance at any station during scheduled train operating times or to provide an accessible service to take disabled passengers to the nearest or most convenient accessible station from where they can continue their journey. No additional charge should be levied for this facility.

Each TOC's Disabled Persons Protection Policy is reviewed annually.

The Department for Transport is working with the industry on implementing an upgrade to the current Assisted Passenger Reservation Service, which we expect to be launched this summer.

Railways: East Anglia

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress he has made in securing funding for the four-tracking of the rail lines between Copper Mill junction and Broxbourne set out in the Greater Anglia Route Utilisation Strategy; [46526]

(2) what recent *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings he has had with the Mayor of London on the implementation of the Greater Anglia Rail Utilisation Strategy; [46532]

(3) what recent *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings he has had with Network Rail on the implementation of the Greater Anglia Rail Utilisation Strategy; [46533]

(4) what recent *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings he has had with the National Express East Anglia group on the implementation of the Greater Anglia Rail Utilisation Strategy; [46534]

(5) what recent representations he has received from hon. Members on the Greater Anglia Rail Utilisation Strategy. [46535]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail published the Greater Anglia Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) in December 2007. It has subsequently undertaken further analysis of the proposal for four-tracking of the rail lines between Copper Mill junction and Broxbourne. This analysis is included in its draft London and South East RUS which is currently subject to consultation. The analysis and recommendations of the RUS will inform the Government's next High Level Output Specification covering rail investment from 2014.

The Department for Transport Ministers have not had recent correspondence or meetings with the Mayor of London specifically on the implementation of the Greater Anglia RUS. However, I did recently discuss the Greater Anglia RUS with two hon. Members as part of a more general meeting about Fenline services.

Railways: Fares

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any relationship between the levels of fare evasion on passenger rail services and the opening hours of ticket offices at rail stations. [47993]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not commissioned any evidence on the relationship between the levels of fare evasion on passenger rail services and the opening hours of ticket offices, and is not aware of any such research from third parties. However, prior to refranchising, the Department arranges for ticketless travel surveys to be carried out in case incentives to address the problem need to be built into future contracts.

Railways: Franchises

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department next plans to review rail operator franchise agreements. [49227]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the Government's response to the Reforming Rail Franchising consultation which can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-28/

New franchise agreements will be put in place for the forthcoming Greater Anglia and Intercity West Coast franchises. Further details on these, including timescales, can be found in my written statement at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/villiers20110119

Railways: Infrastructure

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the likely *(a)* cost of and *(b)* revenue arising from restructuring of the Anglia region's track and signalling infrastructure. [49832]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has made no such assessment. The independent Office of Rail Regulation is responsible for assessing the performance of Network Rail in driving efficiencies on the rail network while delivering the Government's High Level Output Specification.

Railways: Overcrowding

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of levels of overcrowding on commuter rail services between Rochdale and Manchester. [50018]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold detailed passenger count information for every station stop on individual rail services. The Department has not therefore made any estimates for the levels of overcrowding on commuter rail services between Rochdale and Manchester.

Northern, the train operator that provides these services, may be able to provide more information. It can be contacted at the following address:

Northern Rail Ltd
Northern House
9 Rougier Street
York YO1 6HZ

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Luton North of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 39W, on railways: overcrowding, what his policy is on managing overcrowding on passenger rail services; and what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing *(a)* targets and *(b)* incentives to encourage train operating companies to reduce overcrowding on such services. [50137]

Mrs Villiers: The Reforming Rail Franchising consultation closed on 18 October 2010 and a policy statement was released on 19 January 2011. The statement can be found on the Department for Transport's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-28/govresponse.pdf

The revised Government policy on crowding can be found in pages 16 to 18.

Railways: Passengers

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of trends in the cost to passengers of rail travel. [50016]

Mrs Villiers: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes a fares index in National Rail Trends. It is available from the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

Railways: Standards

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what compensation was paid to rail passengers by each of the train operating companies operating the delay and pay scheme in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [50823]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information in the form requested.

Train companies pay compensation to passengers for delays and other matters arising from poor service under the terms of their Passenger's Charters. The terms of each operator's Passenger's Charter are approved under their respective franchise agreements.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road casualties were recorded in *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* the south-west in the last three years for which figures are available. [50518]

Mike Penning: The information requested is given in the following table:

Reported casualties from personal injury road accidents in (a) Poole constituency and (b) the south-west, 2007-09

	Number of casualties	
	(a) Poole[1]	*(b) South-west region*[2]
2007	362	21,866
2008	371	19,184
2009	323	18,117

[1] Based on the 2010 parliamentary boundaries.
[2] Former Government Office Region.

The data for year 2010 will be published at end of June 2011.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in road traffic accidents in Oxford street, London, in each of the last five years. [51042]

Mike Penning: The information requested is given in the following table:

Reported pedestrian casualties resulting from personal injury road accidents: Oxford street, London, 2005-09

	Number of casualties	
Accident year	*(a) All injury severities*	*(b) Killed*
2005	111	0
2006	93	2
2007	73	1

Reported pedestrian casualties resulting from personal injury road accidents: Oxford street, London, 2005-09

	Number of casualties	
Accident year	(a) All injury severities	(b) Killed
2008	64	1
2009	63	3

Source:
Transport for London

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much from the sum announced in the 2011 Budget for costs of road maintenance arising from adverse weather conditions is to be paid to each highway authority; [49894]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 284-85W, on roads: snow and ice, whether he has informed local authorities of their allocations; and how much has been allocated to each local authority. [49640]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State wrote on 24 March to all English local highway authorities to inform them of their share of £200 million following the Budget statement on 23 March which announced we had doubled the funding being provided for repairing potholes. This funding was paid to authorities on Monday 28 March 2011.

I refer to the following weblink which sets out how much each authority has been allocated from the £200 million:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localauthorities/funding/fundingstreams/extrafunds/xls/allocationsbyregion.xls

Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the role of chief scientific adviser to his Department. [50152]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport is considering how a future chief scientific adviser role would be most effectively delivered as part of the Department's reorganisation process.

Sea Rescue

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with representatives of the *(a)* fishing industry and *(b)* offshore oil and gas industry on proposals to reduce the number of coastguard maritime rescue co-ordination centres. [44998]

Mike Penning: I have had no discussions with representatives of the fishing industry or the offshore oil and gas industry specifically on the proposals to reduce the number of coastguard maritime rescue co-ordination centres.

The consultation I launched on 16 December 2011 is an opportunity for everyone, including these industries, to consider their views and respond to the proposals we have made. I would encourage them to do so.

Shipping: Oil

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the provisions of the order on ship-to-ship transfers outside harbour authority waters to enter into force *(a)* in general and *(b)* in respect of waters off the Suffolk coast on 1 April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [50379]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement entitled "Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010" which I made on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-28WS.

South West Trains: Rolling Stock

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with South West Trains on improving the provision of rolling stock on Portsmouth to London passenger rail services. [49716]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* As part of the commitment to provide extra railway carriages made by the Secretary of State on 25 November 2010, the Department for Transport has recommenced work with Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) for the provision of additional peak capacity into London Waterloo.

The day-to-day deployment of the available rolling stock remains the responsibility of the train operating company as it is required to plan to meet the capacity demands on the services that it operates under the terms of its franchise agreement.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenue was collected through speed camera penalty charge notices in *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* the south-west in the last three years for which figures are available. [50519]

Mike Penning: Following the ending of the National Safety Camera Funding Scheme in 2007, all fixed penalty income, whether or not the offence was detected by camera, goes to the Consolidated Fund.

Data on the number of fixed penalties issued and paid per year for all motoring offences and separately on all speeding offences detected by camera are collected centrally and published as part of National Statistics. These are outlined in detail within Chapter 3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Police Powers and Procedures". Sections 3.3 and 3.4 deal with fixed penalty notices generally and notices issued on the basis of speed camera evidence respectively. Data available for police force areas include in table 3.01 "Speed Limit Offences" which will include all detected offences, including those detected by enforcement cameras.

The latest publication outlines data for the financial year 2008-09 as well as making reference to historical data. The next bulletin is due to be published in April 2011:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/stats-release.html

Transport: Schools

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards a review of school travel. [48864]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

One of the coalition Government's priorities is to increase the supply of places in good schools and, in doing so, increase parental choice. Transport is a vital element in extending parental choice. Local authorities already spend almost £1 billion per annum on school transport. The Secretary of State has very recently allocated a further £85 million over the next two financial years to local authorities to support low income families to attend schools further from home than the statutory distance. Part of that allocation is to help those families attend schools on the basis of a particular religion or belief. This has been communicated to local authorities and individual allocations will be made to local authorities very shortly.

Officials will also launch a review involving local authorities on how we can improve the efficiency and practice within local authority transport planning in the coming years.

Transport: Sustainable Development

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation his Department undertook with representatives of the motorcycling industry when formulating its Local Transport White Paper, "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen". [50920]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport did not specifically consult with representatives of the motorcycling industry when formulating its Local Transport White Paper, "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen", but is aware of its general views and took these into account in the formulation of the paper. The paper cites, for example, the benefits of the "Wheel to Work" initiative.

The Department recognises that motorcycling is a mode of transport that many people find practical and convenient, and that it has a useful part to play in the full range of transport policies, at national as well as local level. Where a local authority identifies the promotion or facilitation of motorcycle use as part of a solution to the transport problem identified in its area, and this solution can be shown to meet the objectives of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund announced alongside the White Paper, I would be pleased to consider the merits of the proposal alongside other bids.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the increased capacity that would be created on the west coast main line through introduction of the European Rail Traffic Management System and in-cab signalling technology. [48373]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* The application of European Rail Traffic Management System ERTMS and in-cab signalling is unlikely to significantly change the present overall capacity of the west coast main line.

One advantage of ERTMS is to manage more effectively train movements over junctions, where trains make conflicting movements without grade separation (ie without flyovers or flyunders). Many of the key junctions are already grade separated on the west coast route. ERTMS does not significantly improve the ability of trains to follow one another more closely.

The west coast main line modernisation scheme, completed in 2008, was designed to increase capacity overall to an optimum level using conventional signalling.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the west coast main line is available to different operators. [49558]

Mrs Villiers: Any operator wishing to operate on a commercial basis may apply to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the necessary track access rights and to Network Rail for train paths in the timetable. Further information is available on the ORR website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department plans to provide to agricultural businesses for the uptake of low-carbon technology and energy-efficient equipment in each of the next four financial years. [50812]

Gregory Barker: Many agricultural businesses are well placed to take up low-carbon technology and improve their energy efficiency. The Department does not target support on particular business sectors but seeks to encourage all business to take up the opportunities of the transition to a low-carbon economy including the incentives for investment in renewable energy technology.

DECC will provide some funding for innovation over the next four years focused on the innovation needs of particular technologies. We are currently reviewing our funding priorities.

Contracts for Difference

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* modelling and *(b)* assumptions were considered for use to determine the contracts for difference proposed in the consultation on electricity market reform. [50619]

Charles Hendry: The modelling used was undertaken by Redpoint Energy. Its report, including the assumptions used, was published alongside the consultation document and can be found on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/emr/emr.aspx

We will publish final proposals in the electricity market reform White Paper this summer.

Departmental Assets

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47409]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will retain receipts from regional development agency (RDA) assets, although a large part of these will be required to meet RDA liabilities. DECC will not retain any receipts from RDA asset sales.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50696]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and its associated bodies have let no contracts to Lockheed Martin since the Department was established in October 2008.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50169]

Gregory Barker: None.

Electricity Market Reform

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how the modelling assumptions underlying the contracts for difference proposed in the consultation on electricity market reform were decided upon. [50617]

Charles Hendry: The assumptions underlying the modelling were decided in consultation with the modellers and Government analysts. We will publish final proposals in the electricity market reform White Paper this summer.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been undertaken to validate the assumption in the analysis supporting the electricity market reform consultation proposals that a reduction in earnings at risk will lead to an equal increase in the level of debt that can be raised. [50622]

Charles Hendry: The cost of capital reductions from the modelling underlying the electricity market reform consultation document were tested through surveys of the existing low-carbon financing literature as well as through consultation with industry experts. We will publish an updated assessment as part of the impact assessment to the electricity market reform White Paper this summer.

Energy Supply

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to maintain potential of small and medium-sized energy suppliers to *(a)* participate in and *(b)* benefit from his strategy for ECO2012 and the Green New Deal. [50627]

Gregory Barker: The Department has been working closely with energy companies of different sizes, developing their proposed role to collect Green Deal payments from customers and exploring the potential opportunities for them as Green Deal providers, offering energy efficiency measures to households and businesses.

The specific criteria that will determine which energy suppliers are included as obligated parties under the new energy company obligation (ECO) will be put forward as part of the public consultation planned for later this year. The proposals being developed will be informed by the recent consultation on whether to raise the customer account threshold for supplier involvement in DECC's current supplier obligations. We will be publishing the Government's response to that consultation shortly.

Energy: Housing

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with industry on extending application of the principle of the Green Deal scheme to the building of new homes. [50535]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had initial discussions with industry on whether a Green Deal-type approach for new homes would help them as a way of offsetting some of the upfront costs of zero carbon homes. The Government look forward to further discussions with industry on this matter.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms he has considered to enable the principles of the Green Deal to be applied to homes not yet built. [50536]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Communities and Local Government has undertaken some initial work on how the principles of the Green Deal could be applied to new build by capturing the energy cost benefits of current building standards over a previous standard. Government have invited the house building industry to consider the key principles that could inform the design of such a scheme, if it were to be developed, and looks forward to receiving the industry's views in due course.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to reduce the time taken for delegated nominating officers to approve large-scale domestic energy schemes on housing estates. [50714]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

I understand that this question relates to the length of time taken by local authorities in the determination of planning applications.

Local authorities often apply a scheme of delegation to allow officials to take decisions that would otherwise be referred to a council committee. This is considered a local matter, and the Department does not intervene in such schemes of delegation.

The statutory timescales for the determination of planning applications by local authorities are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010. Where local authorities fail to make decisions within the statutory timescales, applicants have a right of appeal against non-determination, under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The Government are committed to introducing a number of measures to streamline the planning applications and related consents regimes. These will include a 12-month guarantee for the processing of all planning applications, including any appeals. Further information on this provision is set out in the Government's "Plan for Growth", published in March 2011.

Fuel Oil: Prices

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the UK's oil refining capacity on levels of fuel prices charged at the pump. [50427]

Charles Hendry: Petrol and diesel are openly traded commodities within the EU and internationally, and we believe this open market provides the best long-term guarantee of competitive prices for the consumer. There are a range of factors that can impact upon retail fuel prices including crude oil costs, refinery capacity, stocks levels, distribution costs, margins charged by retailers, tax and duty and exchange rates. UK retailers will have to continue to remain competitive in their pricing whether the product they sell is refined in the UK or is imported.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost was of a litre of domestic fuel delivered *(a)* through the grid and *(b)* off-grid in the latest period for which figures are available. [50481]

Charles Hendry: Off-grid fuels sold by the litre are domestic heating oils—either standard grade burning oil (SGBO) or gas oil—and liquid petroleum gas (LPG). DECC does not currently have any prices for LPG. The most recent prices published by DECC for heating oil are for February 2011:

		Pence per litre
	SGBO	*Gas Oil*
February 2011	55.60	64.19

Domestic fuel delivered through the grid is either gas or electricity, neither of which are measured in litres. The most recent price data are average UK prices for calendar year 2010 measured in pence per kilowatt-hour (p/kWh):

		Pence per kWh
	Gas	*Electricity*
2010	3.66	12.64

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the price of heating oil for *(a)* business and *(b)* domestic use. [51301]

Charles Hendry: The UK has an open and competitive heating oil market, where there is no natural monopoly. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) monitors the heating oil market, including prices, for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached. The OFT considers all complaints and representations carefully.

On 15 March the OFT launched its off-grid energy markets study concerning specifically the domestic market. The OFT expects to publish its findings and conclusions in October 2011, which will help to determine whether any changes are needed to the heating oil market.

Fuel Poverty

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people over the age of 65 years and resident in Clwyd South constituency who were living in fuel poverty in the latest period for which figures are available. [50479]

Gregory Barker: Data on households in fuel poverty in Wales are derived from the Living in Wales property survey, 2008 and are supplied by the Welsh Assembly Government. In 2008, 332,000 households in Wales were estimated to be fuel poor. This is equivalent to 26% of all households. Of those households where the household reference person (HRP) was aged 65 or over, the proportion estimated to be fuel poor is 40% (or 139,000 households).

The survey was designed to allow analysis at an all Wales level only, so the Welsh Assembly Government are unable to supply data at a parliamentary constituency level as per the parliamentary question. The survey results are also presented as the number of households that are in fuel poverty and not the number of individuals that are in fuel poverty.

The household reference person is defined as the person in whose name the home is owned or rented. If it is jointly owned or rented the HRP is the person who earns the most. If there are equal incomes the HRP is the eldest.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people living in fuel poverty who used *(a)* heating oil, *(b)* liquid petroleum gas and *(c)* other off-grid fuels as the primary means of heating their homes in the latest period for which figures are available. [50482]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is measured at household level, not by number of people. The following table summarises the number of fuel poor households by main heating fuel in each of England, Scotland and Wales for the most recent period for which data are available.

Number of fuel poor households

Thousand

Main heating fuel	*England (2008)*	*Scotland (2009)*	*Wales (2008)*
Heating oil	236	77	67
LPG/bottled gas	67	[1]24	13
Other (solid) fuels	102	[1]—	18

[1] Indicates a brace.

Other off-grid fuels comprise a range of solid fuels, including coal, smokeless fuel, anthracite and wood.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on a target for UK reductions of greenhouse gas emissions of 60% of 1990 levels by 2030. [50604]

Gregory Barker: The Climate Change Act 2008 requires Government to set the level of the fourth carbon budget covering the period 2023-27 in law not later than 30 June 2011. The Government are grateful to the Committee on Climate Change for its report published last December on the fourth carbon budget which included a recommendation for an indicative target of 60% by 2030. Government expect to respond to the CCC's recommendations after the Easter recess.

Oil

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of environmental legislation on *(a)* the competitiveness of and *(b)* levels of investment in oil refining. [50428]

Charles Hendry: There are a range of factors that determine competitiveness and levels of investment in oil refining. An assessment conducted for DECC in 2009[1] concluded that low returns and weak demand growth had led to a lack of discretionary investment in UK downstream oil infrastructure with most investment being made to comply with safety and environmental regulatory requirements. The main incentive to invest is potential financial return, but the lack of demand growth and the competitive nature of the market constrain these returns in the UK. Nevertheless, reducing regulation is a key priority for the coalition Government, and we are working to eliminate the avoidable burdens of regulation and bureaucracy, and to improve European regulation and to reduce the burdens it imposes. We fully recognise the importance of a level playing field within the EU given the cost and operational challenges to oil refining that environmental legislation can bring. We will also continue to encourage businesses to manage and use natural resources in a sustainable manner and reduce waste, supporting a strong and sustainable green economy.

[1] Website as follows:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/resilience/downstream_oil/improving/improving.aspx

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the minimum number of oil refineries in the UK necessary to ensure security of fuel supply. [50429]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise that the retention of a refining sector in the UK offers benefits in terms of security of supply (balancing the risks between crude oil and refined product markets) as well as wider socio-economic benefits. It is Government's role to create the best conditions to ensure that the UK's demand for petroleum products continues to be met; at present, this is done through a balance of indigenously manufactured products and imports. We need to recognise the changes taking place in terms of refined product supply and demand, and that a mix of product refined in the UK and imports and exports will play a continuing role in the UK's downstream oil market. Industry and the market are best placed to determine the appropriate number of UK-based refineries and we have been encouraged by recent inward investment into the UK refinery sector.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's internal studies on the future of oil refineries in the UK. [50430]

Charles Hendry: In 2009, a study carried out by Wood Mackenzie, on behalf of DECC, on the resilience of the downstream oil sector was completed and has been available on DECC's website. Further work on the resilience of the sector to a variety of potential disruption events was conducted by Deloitte LLP in 2010. I will place a copy of these reports in the Libraries of the House. A study on the competitiveness of the UK's refining sector is under way, and I will also place a copy of this study in the Libraries of the House when complete.

Paper

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that the paper industry is not adversely affected by his policies on climate change and energy usage. [50859]

Gregory Barker: As part of the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department of Energy and Climate Change are looking at how to maximise abatement in these sectors, while maintaining international competitiveness.

As part of this work, we are looking at the cumulative effects of energy and climate change policies on energy intensive users such as the paper industry. We aim to publish the findings of this work by the summer.

In Budget 2011, the Government announced that climate change agreements (CCAs) will be extended to 2023, as well as increasing the climate change levy discount on electricity for CCA participants from 65 to 80% from April 2013 to continue to support energy intensive businesses exposed to international competition.

In addition, as outlined in the "Plan for Growth", the Government are introducing a new framework to cap the impact of levy-funded support on energy bills, alongside scrapping plans for a new carbon capture and storage levy and instead fund the coalition commitments to CCS demonstration from general taxation.

Raytheon Radar

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made on the progress of the mitigation research programme for the Raytheon radar. [51011]

Charles Hendry: We have received an update from NATS, the UK en-route air navigation service provider on the research and development work being conducted on behalf of DECC, the Crown Estate and the windfarm developer community with Raytheon. Indications are encouraging that the technology could be an effective mitigation solution for NATS' radars. Trials are due to be completed later this year.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he expects the mitigation research programme for the Raytheon radar to be completed by the target date of summer 2011. [51012]

Charles Hendry: Yes.

Renewable Energy

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of auctions with multiple bidders in delivering sustained deployment of renewable electricity over the long term to support the development of the model for contracts for difference with auctions proposed by his Department in its consultation on electricity market reform. [50621]

Charles Hendry: My officials are currently in the process of assessing the responses we have received to the electricity market reform consultation which closed on 10 March 2011. A number of these dealt with companies' perceptions of the effectiveness of auctions in the electricity generation market.

The proposals in the electricity market reform consultation paper were based on analysis of a number of auctions/tenders carried out in the UK and internationally. My officials have carried out further research on these schemes, speaking to Government officials responsible for their design and companies who have participated in them.

We have commissioned external research and advice in a number of areas of electricity market reform, including the effectiveness of different price discovery mechanisms.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of solar photovoltaic installations in 2010; and what estimate he has made of the likely installation rate in 2011. [48930]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows actual solar PV installation figures under the feed-in tariff (FITs) scheme until 31 December 2010 and projections for 2010-11 and 2011-12. The comprehensive review of FITs will revisit uptake assumptions and update DECC projections.

	Actual installations at 31 December 2010	*FITs model projection 2010-11*	*FITs model projection 2011-12*
Installations	14,500	20,500	55,000
MW	—	(50 to 90 MW)	(135 to 175 MW)

Note:

1. Installation numbers are rounded to the nearest 500.

2. MW estimates are rounded to the nearest 5 MW. Estimates are presented in a range; the lower end of the range is consistent with the final impact assessment, February 2010, and the higher end of the range is consistent with the impact assessment accompanying the Fast-Track Review of FITs Consultation. The Fast-Track Review analysis includes a higher estimate of PV MW capacity than previously estimated in 2010, which takes account of a higher estimate of take-up from large-scale PV installations. Installation numbers (rounded to the nearest 500) are not significantly different in either estimate.

3. Installations transferred from the RO onto the Exgen (9p/kWh) tariff are excluded. Projections were made on a financial year basis.

Warm Home Discount Core Group

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much he plans to spend on the Warm Home Discount Core Group in the winter of 2011-12. [50265]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Home Discount scheme regulations set the overall spending target for all elements of the scheme at £250 million for the first scheme year, 2011-12. Subject to the approval by Parliament of data matching regulations, which will facilitate the identification of the Core Group, we expect that suppliers will provide rebates to the Core Group worth up to £97 million.

Wave Power

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with industry representatives on support for commercial-scale marine technology to produce energy from wave power. [51155]

Charles Hendry: The Department has regular discussions with representatives of the wave power industry. Recent meetings include:

The first Marine Energy Programme Board meeting held in Exeter last January, chaired by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker), and subsequently held working groups.

A marine energy breakfast "round table" attended by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker), prior to him speaking to the RenewableUK Wave and Tidal conference.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authority Pay

11. **David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking in respect of levels of pay of senior staff in local authorities. [50350]

Mr Pickles: Representations have been received from Members of Parliament, leaders of local authorities, trade union branches and the members of the public. Although a matter for individual councils, we expect restraint and leadership to be shown locally when setting senior pay. We have introduced measures in the Localism Bill to increase local democratic accountability for decisions on senior pay. We have also been consulting on proposed new transparency arrangements for local government, including how public money is used in relations to senior pay.

Business: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in Pendle constituency received business rate hardship relief in 2010. [50965]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in Pendle constituency were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* received small business rate relief in the last year for which figures are available. [50966]

Robert Neill: Pendle reported on their national non-domestic rates (NNDR1) budget form that 1,158 hereditaments received a discount from the small business rate relief scheme as at 31 December 2009. A further 55 hereditaments paid only the small business rate multiplier without being granted a discount. Information on numbers of businesses eligible for the relief is not held centrally.

Compulsory Purchase

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to establish and promulgate guidance on the planning status of land acquired under compulsory purchase orders in order to assess land value for compensation purposes. [50723]

Robert Neill: Guidance on the current system is contained in Appendix P ("Land Compensation Act 1961—Certificates of appropriate alternative development") to Part 1 of the Memorandum to ODPM Circular 06/2004 "Compulsory Purchase and the Crichel Down Rules".

Council Tax

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on local authorities which have different levels of council tax within their areas for those in the same council tax band. [50383]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* Taxpayers in the same local authority and council tax band will pay different levels of council tax where the town or parish where they live charges a differing amount of precept from another town or parish in that local authority. The Department has published local authority level information for 2010-11 on local precepting authorities. This can be found at the following address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1765849.xls

Information on the levels of precepts set by individual parishes is not held centrally.

Some taxpayers in the same council tax band in the unitary authorities of central Bedfordshire and Shropshire pay different levels of tax as these authorities have decided to continue to set their basic amount of council tax under Part 4 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008, so as to equalise its council tax for all predecessor areas over more than two years. Information on these predecessor areas can be found in table 6 of the statistical release 'Council tax levels set by local authorities in England—2011-12', at this address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1870241.xls

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to assist residents of local authority areas in meeting the cost of council tax bills. [50542]

Robert Neill: The Government's council tax freeze for 2011-12 has been a success with 100% take-up of the scheme among eligible authorities across England.

In addition, council tax benefit is available to those on low incomes who are having difficulty paying their council tax bills.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50693]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2002 (as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) and since that time has let no contracts with Lockheed Martin.

Information on contracts awarded by the Department's associated public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Spending by my Department's arm's length bodies over £500 since 2008-09 is available online as part of our broader transparency agenda.

Departmental Flowers

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on cut flowers through its integrated facilities management contract with MITIE between the date of initiation of the contract and 30 April 2010. [50667]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 743-44W.

Environment Protection: Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to coordinate environmental planning between communities in cases where protected woodland covers more than one county and district area. [50468]

Robert Neill: Local planning authorities already work together on environmental issues both informally and formally, for example on preparing joint local plans.

We are introducing a duty to co-operate in the Localism Bill that will require local planning authorities and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in preparing local plans. The duty will maximise effective working on development planning in relation to issues that cross administrative boundaries. The issues will depend on the circumstances that authorities and their neighbours face but is likely to include environmental matters.

Authorities have the option of developing joint strategic planning documents with statutory status. These documents can address one or more strategic issues, for example climate change, energy, transport, infrastructure, that are particularly relevant to a group of authorities who may want to develop a strategy to address them together.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects on fire service pension schemes of the recommendations of the Independent Public Sector Pensions Commission. [50277]

Robert Neill: The final report of the Independent Public Service Pension Commission was published by Lord Hutton on 10 March 2011. The report set out 27 recommendations to reform public service pensions so that public service employees can have access to good quality, sustainable and affordable pensions, which are fair to both public sector workers and the taxpayer.

These recommendations included a move to career average pension schemes, the protection of accrued rights, greater transparency and oversight, and the linking of scheme retirement ages to the state pension age. For the uniformed services, including firefighters, Lord Hutton recommended that a retirement age of 60 would be more appropriate, inline with the current New Firefighters Pension Scheme (2006) rules.

At the Budget the Chancellor accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trades unions and others, recognising that the position of the uniformed services will require particularly careful consideration. The Government will then set out proposals in the autumn that are affordable, sustainable and fair to both the public sector work force and the taxpayer.

Flood Control

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the findings from Exercise Watermark national emergency flooding exercise that affect fire and rescue services. [50323]

Robert Neill: Exercise Watermark took place from 4 to 10 March. It tested the country's preparedness for a national flood emergency. It is too soon to draw, or discuss, any findings.

Debriefs are currently taking place. Feedback from exercise participants, who came from many diverse organisations, is being collated. A final exercise report and implementation plan is expected by the end of September 2011. My Department will take forward any findings relating to the fire and rescue service, working with the sector as appropriate.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the implications of the local levy for flood defences for the holding of referendums under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [51017]

Robert Neill: We have received certain representations about flood defence levies. We are currently considering what might be possible in terms of allowing communities to come together and make it clear they are happy to raise such a levy, while ensuring this does not amount to a green light for excessive council tax increases.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the retention of receipts from the sale of council house sales in order to deliver services locally through the housing revenue account business plan. [50322]

Andrew Stunell: Receipts derived from the sale of tenanted homes to registered social landlords may be spent on any capital purpose (once outstanding liabilities have been met). All other receipts may be retained provided they are spent on affordable housing or regeneration projects, except right to buy (and similar) sales of existing council homes where 75% of the receipt must be surrendered to central Government.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what mechanisms are in place to ensure environmental concerns are taken into account in the development of local enterprise partnerships; [50719]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure social issues are taken into account in the development of local enterprise partnerships. [50720]

Robert Neill: Local enterprise partnerships are locally led partnerships of business and civic leaders, coming together to provide clear vision and strategic leadership to drive sustainable economic growth and job creation in their area, as set out in the White Paper "Local growth: realising every places potential". We continue to take a non-prescriptive approach in order to give local areas the flexibility to fully reflect their economic needs. As such it is for local areas to decide how environmental concerns will be taken into account in setting the priorities and continued work of their local enterprise partnership.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Cost-effectiveness

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria he plans to use to assess value for money in the new local enterprise partnership arrangements. [50230]

Robert Neill: Local enterprise partnerships are not government bodies, and do not receive central Government funding in respect to their administrative costs. As locally led partnerships of business and civic leaders, they will not be subject to burdensome performance monitoring regimes imposed by Whitehall. It will be for partnerships to determine how best to assess value for money as part of any monitoring activities they undertake. Where partnerships receive support from Government in relation to specific economic activities, there will be a requirement to assess value for money in respect to the public purse.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: North East England

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public consultation his Department conducted prior to the creation of the North East Economic Partnership. [50228]

Robert Neill: The North East Economic Partnership is not a government body and Central Government has therefore not been consulted on its creation.

Local Government Finance: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Medway council and *(b)* Tonbridge and Malling borough council in each of the last five years. [50046]

Robert Neill: The total grant funding allocated by the Department of Communities and Local Government to Medway unitary authority and Tonbridge and Malling borough council is as follows:

£ thousand

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Medway	215,307	77,170	80,761	88,756	104,348
Tonbridge and Malling	6,659	7,121	7.208	7,818	7,454

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of:

formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates);

specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services) (only includes grants from this Department);

specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (only includes grants from this Department);

Area Based Grant (from 2008-09); and

'other grants' provided by all Government Departments.

These figures are taken from revenue outturn forms provided by authorities after the end of a financial year. Figures for formula grant, Area Based Grant and other grants are aggregated grants for all Government Departments.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology. For example, the large apparent reduction in Medway's funding between 2005-06 and 2006-07 is due principally to the transfer of Dedicated School Grant (£153.092 million in 2006-07) from formula grant to specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (from another Department).

Local Government: Pay

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking in respect of levels of pay to senior officials in local authorities. [50661]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr Offord) on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 7W.

Local Government: Public Participation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of times people have been removed by police from public galleries in meetings of local authorities in England in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [50375]

Robert Neill: My Department does not hold the requested information.

I have, however, noted reports in the media and social media recently of incidents where people had been ejected from council meetings for blogging, tweeting or filming, and given the importance of transparency and accountability in council decision-making, I wrote to principal local authorities on 23 February to encourage councils to open up their meetings to members of the public and to citizen journalists.

Non-domestic Rates: Rochdale

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many businesses in Rochdale received business rate hardship relief in 2010; [49999]

(2) how many businesses in each region of England received business rate hardship relief in 2010. [50001]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in Rochdale were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* received small business rate relief in the latest period for which figures are available. [50000]

Robert Neill: Rochdale metropolitan borough council reported on their national non-domestic rates (NNDR1) budget form that 1,864 hereditaments received a discount from the small business rate relief scheme as at 31 December 2009. A further 128 hereditaments paid only the small business rate multiplier without being granted a discount. Information on number of businesses eligible for the relief is not held centrally.

Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the provision of guidance and information on changes to the planning system to non-governmental organisations. [50666]

Robert Neill: The Localism Bill contains a number of changes to the planning system and this was published in December 2010 with explanatory notes.

The National Planning Policy Framework will set out the Government's key economic, social and environmental objectives and the planning policies to deliver them. The framework will combine all national planning policies into one concise, easy to use document in a way that is much more accessible to business and communities.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to evaluate local authorities' adaptation to the new planning system [50721]

Robert Neill: The Government are decentralising decisions on planning and housing matters to local authorities who are perfectly capable of managing planning in their area.

However, all plans are subject to an independent examination to test their soundness and all planning decisions are subject to appeal if applicants are unhappy with the decision.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to ensure that local authorities are equipped with adequate resources to collect and collate data relevant to planning. [50722]

Robert Neill: Local plans should be based on sound evidence, but it is not the job of the Government to tell councils how to manage their responsibilities or prioritise their resources. Evidence should be proportionate and relevant to the local area.

Subject to the review and reduction of data reporting burdens on local government, the Department will continue to produce official statistics which can contribute to the evidence base used by local authorities to develop their plans; these statistics include house building, affordable housing supply, house prices, homelessness, household projections, planning applications and land use change.

Prince William: Marriage

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to reduce the administrative requirements for street parties planned to mark the Royal Wedding. [50541]

Robert Neill: In August 2010 the Government published a simple checklist to help residents work with their local authorities to organise street parties and similar community events. The checklist replaced a plethora of confusing guidelines on food licences, road closures and insurance. I have placed a copy of the checklist in the Library of the House.

In February 2011, working in conjunction with my Department, the Department for Transport removed the national guidelines on "special event" traffic regulation orders, making clear these were matters to be dealt with locally and that central Government did not need to be involved.

Ministers have continued to encourage local authorities to be as helpful and flexible as possible in agreeing road closures and not to levy unnecessary charges.

Tenancy Agreements

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effect of flexible tenancies on older people and the disabled. [50361]

Andrew Stunell: We will protect the security and rights of existing social tenants. At the same time, our tenancy reforms will give greater flexibility to social landlords to support more vulnerable people who need help, for as long as they need it, and ensure that the system is fair.

West Sussex County Council: Pay

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the underlying local wage data used by the last administration as the basis of calculations of the area cost adjustment for West Sussex County Council, anonymising data where necessary to facilitate disclosure. [50644]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* It is the view of Ministers that data should be released, provided that personally identifiable information would not be released and legal obligations were met. I believe that disclosure would be in keeping with the new Government's transparency and free data agendas, and would be in the public interest by promoting greater scrutiny and accountability of the local government finance settlement.

Notwithstanding, the data referred to are the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics and any release is governed by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what constitutional powers he would adopt were the Prime Minister prevented from exercising his functions and duties. [51005]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the recent answer given by the Leader of the House of Commons on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1065.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) on what date he last travelled by ministerial car whilst on government business; and how many times he has travelled by ministerial car to his constituency since May 2010; [50094]

(2) on what date he last travelled by a public bus service whilst on government business; and how many times he has travelled by public bus services whilst on government business since his appointment; [50095]

(3) on what date he last travelled by London Underground services whilst on government business; and how many times he has travelled by London Underground services whilst on government business since his appointment; [50096]

Departmental Public Transport

(4) whether he has been issued at public expense with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travelcard valid on London Underground for use when travelling on government business. [50097]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements, including by public transport. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel as set out in the ministerial code.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Office has spent on Ministerial travel by *(a)* Ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50224]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Details of overseas travel are published quarterly and can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Within the UK, I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements, including by public transport. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel as set out in the ministerial code.

Elections: Tower Hamlets

Mr Burley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what reports he has received on the conduct of the recent election of the mayor of the London borough of Tower Hamlets. [50668]

Mr Harper: No formal reports have been received by the Government on the conduct of the recent election of the mayor of the London borough of Tower Hamlets.

General Election 2010

Bob Russell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of armed forces personnel who exercised their right to vote in the May 2010 general election *(a)* in person, *(b)* by post and *(c)* by proxy; and what proportion this represents of armed forces personnel on electoral rolls. [50107]

Mr Harper: No figures are kept on the number of armed forces personnel who choose to exercise their right to vote, whether in person, by post or by proxy. Armed forces personnel may register either as service voters or as 'ordinary' voters, and may change the nature of their registration over the course of their career. The Ministry of Defence conducts regular surveys to monitor the level of registration among armed forces personnel—in 2009, 76% of those who were registered to vote were registered as 'ordinary' voters, rather than service voters.

Electoral registers do not record whether someone who is not registered specifically as a service voter is a member of the armed forces, and so, even were numbers held centrally of votes cast by those registered as service voters, no calculation of the percentage of armed forces personnel who have voted would be possible.

General Elections: Costs

Mr Ward: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of a general election held in 2015 under *(a)* the first past the post system and *(b)* the alternative vote system. [50799]

Mr Harper: Based on the information set out in the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2010, the estimated cost of the conduct of the UK parliamentary election in Great Britain which was held under the first past the post system on 6 May 2010 is £82.1 million. This figure takes into account the reduced costs of holding the UK parliamentary election on the same day as local government elections. The estimated cost of the 2010 UK parliamentary election in Northern Ireland was £2.5 million. The overall figures will be finalised once all claims from acting returning officers in Great Britain and the chief electoral officer for Northern Ireland (who are statutorily responsible for running the poll) have been received and finalised. The estimated cost of holding a stand-alone UK parliamentary election across the whole of the UK under the first past the post system is £92.1 million.

The features of a general election using the alternative vote system would broadly be the same as under the existing system: for example, in terms of the provision of ballot papers and polling stations. However, it is not possible to quantify with certainty what the extra cost of counting votes under the alternative vote system would be: this will be dependent to a significant extent on the preferences expressed by voters.

Lobbying

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in his consideration of the Ministerial Code as it relates to commercial lobbying activities. [50464]

Mr Harper: The "Ministerial Code" published in May 2010 was strengthened to make clear that on leaving office, former Ministers will be prohibited from lobbying Government for two years. The code also makes clear that former Ministers must seek advice from the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments about any appointments or employment they wish to take up within two years of leaving office, and that they must abide by the Committee's advice.

The Government are also committed to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists, and will publish a consultation paper on the form and content of a statutory register later this year.

JUSTICE

Prosecutions: National Insurance Contributions

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees were prosecuted for evading national insurance contributions in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [50039]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 36W.

Bribery Act 2010

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* stakeholders on the timetable for publication of guidance on implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50267]

(2) what timetable he has set for implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; if he will make it his policy to bring the Act into force no later than May 2011; and if he will make a statement. [50268]

Mr Djanogly: In his written statement of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), informed the House that he had that day published guidance under the Bribery Act about commercial organisations preventing bribery and would allow a period of three months for businesses to familiarise themselves with this guidance before the Act comes into force on 1 July 2011. It is not the constitutional practice to disclose details of ministerial discussions. The guidance itself was the subject of extensive consultation outside Government but the timetable did not form part of the consultation process.

Community Orders: Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the use of restorative justice for shop theft offences. [50246]

Mr Blunt: In the recent Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle", we set out our intention to increase the range and availability of restorative justice approaches, and to give victims a greater change of seeking reparation for crime committed against them.

In total, we received approximately 1,200 responses and will be publishing our response to the consultation in May. This will include consideration of the representations we received on the use of restorative justice at different stages in the criminal justice system and for different disposal types, where appropriate.

Court Orders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued by each court division which prohibit parties from mentioning the existence of proceedings to hon. Members in each year since 2000. [50105]

Mr Djanogly: In order to protect the interests of justice in an individual case, the courts have power to prohibit disclosure of specific information to anyone other than the defendant's legal advisers. However, the defendant is always at liberty to apply for the order to be made in different terms (if he or she is represented at the hearing), or subsequently for the terms of the order to be amended (for example to permit disclosure to specific individuals or bodies or for specific purposes).

The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally on the number of court orders issued each year by court divisions which specifically prohibit parties from mentioning the existence of proceedings to hon. Members. The requested information could only be obtained through the examination of individual case files held at courts which would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50700]

Mr Blunt: There have been no contracts awarded to Lockheed Martin since the Ministry of Justice was formed in 2007. Prior to this date there are no centralised historical data available.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50083]

(2) how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business; [50180]

(3) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010; [50182]

(4) how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50215]

Mr Djanogly: Since changes to the Government Car Service in September 2010, only the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), had an allocated car, which other members of the ministerial team make use of where possible. No members of the ministerial team have been issued with an oyster card, monthly or annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by the Ministry of Justice. Information on the dates each Minister in MoJ last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity and how many times each other Minister travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010 is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, Ministers only have a ministerial car when they are travelling in an official capacity with their red box.

A breakdown of ministerial travel expenditure is as follows:

(a) Total cost of ministerial cars to date from May 2010 to 29 March 2011 is £212,991.

(b) Total cost of ministerial train fares from May 2010 to 29 March is £3,752.96.

(c) No cost has been incurred for ministerial travel by bus.

(d) Total cost of ministerial use of commercial aircraft from May 2010 to 29 March is £14,356.39.

(e) No cost has been incurred for ministerial travel by private aircraft.

Table 1: Breakdown of travel by transport on Government business since May 2010

	Date of travel by:		*Times travelled on:*	
	London Underground	*Public bus*	*London Underground*	*Public bus*
Secretary of State Kenneth Clarke MP	Nil Return	Nil Return	Nil Return	Nil Return
Lord McNally	17 February 2011	Nil Return	1	Nil Return
Crispin Blunt MP	20 September 2010 (x2) 28 September 2010 17 October 2010 18 October 2010 20 October 2010 21 October 2010 25 November 2010 6 January 2011 25 January 2011 (x2) 27 January 2011 9 March 2011 14 March 2011 17 March 2011 (x2)	Nil Return	16	Nil Return
Jonathan Djanogly MP	2 February 2011	Nil Return	1	Nil Return

Incapacity Benefit: Tribunals

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals concerning incapacity benefit claims were awaiting listing by the Tribunals Service in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average time was from the admission of an appeal to the case being heard by a tribunal in the last year for which figures are available. [50854]

Mr Djanogly: There are always a number of 'live' appeals in the First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support progressing through the stages of receipt, decision and promulgation. The number of incapacity appeals awaiting listing for a hearing as at 28 February 2011, the latest date for which statistics have been published, was 8,600. The average time taken by the tribunal from receipt of an incapacity benefit appeal to a hearing, over the period April 2010 to the end of February 2011, was 21.1 weeks.

The functions of the Tribunals Service have now transferred into Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service which was launched on 1 April 2011. This brings together Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service into one agency supporting the administration of justice in both courts and tribunals.

Legal Aid: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Poole constituency received legal aid in each of the last five years. [50515]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

We are re-examining the data in respect of all the Poole constituency and I will write separately with this information.

Marriage of Convenience

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for offences in relation to sham marriages in each of the last five years. [50675]

Mr Blunt: Defendants can be prosecuted under a variety of Acts for offences related to sham marriages, including the Perjury Act 1911, Immigration Act 1971, Identity Cards Act 2006, and the Fraud Act 2006. However it is not possible to identify from data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice proceedings specifically for sham marriages.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he plans to allocate for female offender rehabilitation centres in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [51003]

Mr Blunt: Funding for the Women's Community Projects was a one-off grant and ends in April 2011. It has always been the aim to demonstrate the effectiveness of the projects in diverting women from custody who do not pose a risk to the community and embed them as part of local commissioning arrangements.

The National Offender Management Service has identified funding to sustain community projects that are critical to diverting women away from custody and crime and a further announcement will be made shortly. The Ministry of Justice will continue to encourage the development of services for women in the criminal justice system that address their complex problems.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of the accommodation of a *(a)* male offender, *(b)* female offender and *(c)* female offender in a women's rehabilitation centre in the last year for which figures are available. [51004]

Mr Blunt: The average overall annual cost per prisoner place in 2009- 10 was:

Male: £39,719

Female: £56,415

This includes prison related overheads met centrally by the National Offender Management Service. This is based on the cost of male and female prisons; where there is a prison holding both male and female prisoners, the data has been allocated to the major use as at 31 March 2010, so the figures do not provide the precise split between male and female prisoners.

The costs for women's centres differ significantly across the country as the provision varies both in terms of size and scope. Women's community services support community options for the courts that provide alternatives to a woman being remanded or given short sentences. These services cost less than prison; however these costs should be set alongside probation costs for managing community sentences and associated costs e.g. costs of approved premises, which has been estimated as £26,000 per bed place annually.

Prison Service: Finance

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hyndburn of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 155-6, on prison service (resources), how much was spent in each *(a)* prison service establishment and *(b)* region in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and what the funding settlement is for 2011-12. [50906]

Mr Blunt: The following table provides the National Offender Management Service's resource spend classified as Direct Resource Expenditure which represents costs met by each public and private establishments by region (i) in 2009-10 and (ii) for 2010-11, the latest forecast spend for financial year ending 2010-11.

NOMS prisons resource spend 2009-10 and 2010-11

£ million

Region	*Establishment name*	*2009-10*	*Forecast P11 2010-11*
North East	Acklington	19.1	19.0
	Castington	14.8	13.4
	Deerbolt	15.1	14.2
	Durham	23.0	22.2
	Holme House	22.4	24.6
	Kirklevington Grange	5.8	5.6
	Low Newton	11.7	11.5
North East total		111.9	110.5
Wales	Cardiff	16.2	16.1
	Swansea	9.2	9.3
	Usk	7.5	7.5
Wales total		32.9	32.9
Yorks and Humberside	Askham Grange	3.6	3.1
	Everthorpe	13.0	12.2

NOMS prisons resource spend 2009-10 and 2010-11

£ million

Region	*Establishment name*	*2009-10*	*Forecast P11 2010-11*
	Hull	21.7	20.6
	Leeds	24.3	23.5
	Lindholme	19.8	18.1
	Moorland	21.0	20.4
	New Hall	15.8	14.5
	Northallerton	5.7	5.5
	Wealstun	17.0	17.0
	Wetherby	15.3	15.8
Yorks and Humberside total		157.3	152.0
North West	Buckley Hall	9.4	9.7
	Garth	20.6	20.0
	Haverigg	14.4	13.7
	Hindley	18.2	18.6
	Kennet	11.7	10.8
	Kirkham	13.5	12.7
	Lancaster Castle	7.4	7.4
	Lancaster Farms	16.9	15.3
	Liverpool	26.1	26.0
	Preston	19.6	18.5
	Risley	21.6	20.7
	Styal	15.3	14.1
	Thorn Cross	8.8	8.5
	Wymott	24.1	23.2
North West total		227.5	219.3
West Midlands	Birmingham	29.7	29.9
	Brinsford	16.3	15.5
	Drake Hall	8.2	8.1
	Featherstone	14.3	14.5
	Hewell Cluster	28.4	28.3
	Shrewsbury	8.7	8.6
	Stafford	14.8	14.7
	Stoke Heath	17.1	17.1
	Swinfen Hall	14.8	14.7
	Werrington	7.0	7.1
West Midlands total		159.2	158.5
East of England	Bedford	11.9	11.7
	Blundeston	13.2	12.5
	Bullwood Hall	7.1	6.5
	Bure	6.4	11.4
	Chelmsford	17.7	17.5
	Edmunds Hill	9.5	9.1
	Highpoint	18.4	17.7
	Hollesley Bay	6.9	6.9
	Littlehey	16.1	22.4
	Mount (The)	16.5	16.3
	Norwich	16.6	16.1
	Warren Hill	9.9	10.1
	Wayland	17.8	18.0
East of England total		168.0	176.2

NOMS prisons resource spend 2009-10 and 2010-11

			£ million
Region	*Establishment name*	*2009-10*	*Forecast P11 2010-11*
East Midlands	Ashwell	10.8	8.1
	Foston Hall	10.0	9.1
	Gartree	18.0	17.1
	Glen Parva	18.3	17.6
	Leicester	9.4	8.9
	Lincoln	15.5	14.6
	Morton Hall	8.6	7.9
	North Sea Camp	5.9	6.0
	Nottingham	17.9	22.0
	Onley	17.5	16.0
	Ranby	21.8	20.7
	Stocken	15.4	15.4
	Sudbury	9.1	7.8
	Wellingborough	13.5	12.0
	Whatton	18.2	17.1
East Midlands total		210.0	200.3
South West	Bristol	15.5	15.4
	Channings Wood	15.8	16.0
	Dartmoor	15.3	15.7
	Dorchester	7.8	7.3
	Eastwood Park	11.2	11.4
	Erlestoke	10.8	10.6
	Exeter	13.1	12.9
	Gloucester	9.2	9.0
	Guys Marsh	12.2	11.6
	Leyhill	10.4	10.3
	Portland	15.6	15.0
	Shepton Mallet	6.0	5.9
	Verne (The)	11.5	11.3
South West total		154.5	152.4
London	Brixton	20.6	21.3
	Feltham	33.1	32.0
	Holloway	21.4	19.2
	Isis	2.7	12.3
	Latchmere House	4.6	4.4
	Pentonville	31.3	29.2
	Wandsworth	36.2	34.1
	Wormwood Scrubs	28.0	27.2
London total		177.9	179.8
High Security	Belmarsh	39.9	39.8
	Frankland	40.7	39.6
	Full Sutton	29.4	29.0
	Long Lartin	28.0	29.1
	Manchester	35.3	36.1
	Wakefield	29.3	29.4
	Whitemoor	31.6	30.6
	Woodhill	32.7	32.8
High Security total		266.9	266.6
South East	Aylesbury	13.6	12.4

NOMS prisons resource spend 2009-10 and 2010-11

£ million

Region	*Establishment name*	*2009-10*	*Forecast P11 2010-11*
	Blantyre House	3.1	3.0
	Bullingdon	22.5	21.2
	Canterbury	7.5	7.3
	Coldingley	14.0	14.2
	Cookham Wood	8.9	9.5
	Downview	10.6	9.9
	East Sutton Park	2.8	2.7
	Ford	8.6	7.8
	Grendon and Springhill	15.1	14.2
	Highdown	24.1	22.0
	Huntercombe	13.5	12.9
	Isle of Wight Cluster	39.8	39.6
	Kingston	6.2	6.1
	Lewes	16.3	15.7
	Maidstone	12.1	11.4
	Reading	9.0	8.2
	Rochester	17.6	16.7
	Send	8.7	8.4
	Isle of Sheppey Cluster	50.7	51.9
	Winchester	15.7	14.6
South East total		320.4	320.9
Private	Parc	45.4	44.4
	Doncaster	23.5	23.8
	Wolds	9.3	9.2
	Altcourse	46.4	47.9
	Forest Bank	31.6	35.6
	Dovegate	32.4	37.0
	Peterborough	31.3	32.2
	Bronzefield	24.4	26.8
	Rye Hill	18.5	18.3
	Lowdham Grange	20.2	26.2
	Ashfield	23.1	25.3
Private total		306.2	326.7
Total		2,292.6	2,287.4

Notes:

1. Displayed figures are subject to rounding.
2. The term 'Direct Resource Expenditure' relates to the costs met locally by establishments.
3. YOI refers to Young Offender Institutions.
4. Data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside are reported under the Isle of Sheppey Cluster. Similarly, data for Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange are reported together as Hewell Cluster. Data for Parkhurst, Camphill and Albany are reported under the Isle of Wight cluster.
5. Dover, Haslar and Lindholme IND are not included as they are immigration removal centres operating under Detention Centre Rules 2001.
6. Private prisons and high security prisons are shown separately.
7. Prison service resources for 2010-11: The expenditure figures for financial year 2010-2011 are based on forecast as at end of February 2011.
8. Funding settlement for 2011-12: The NOMS total budget for financial year 2011-2012 for public Prisons is £1,870 million and private prisons £311 million. Budgets for individual establishments are still subject to adjustment before being issued.

Prison Service: Manpower

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Hyndburn (Graham Jones) of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 155-56, on prison service (resources), what the complemented staffing numbers were in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what estimates his Department has made of the change in complemented staffing numbers in each (i) region and (ii) Prison Service establishment in 2011-12. [50907]

Mr Blunt: Information on the complemented staffing numbers are reported regularly by each establishment. The staffing requirements reported for 31 March 2009, 31 March 2010 and 31 December 2010 are shown in the following tables.

Staffing requirement by region, 2009-10

	Establishment staffing requirement		
Region	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
East Midlands	5,530	5,541	4,911
East of England	4,739	5,114	4,962
London	4,804	4,958	4,851
North East	3,763	3,735	3,632
North West	6,152	6,041	5,828
South East	8,838	8,736	8,341
South West	3,754	3,571	3,488
Wales	920	829	865
West Midlands	4,703	4,671	4,593
Yorkshire and Humberside	5,309	5,231	5,249
Total	48,512	48,426	46,720

Staffing requirement by region and establishment, 2009-10

		Establishment staffing requirement		
Region	*Establishment*	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
East Midlands	Ashwell	326	309	219
	Foston Hall	328	318	251
	Gartree	477	461	435
	Glen Parva	528	529	479
	Leicester	242	235	212
	Lincoln	401	401	337
	Morton Hall	225	217	196
	North Sea Camp	150	145	122
	Nottingham	417	616	566
	Onley	440	434	390
	Ranby	559	494	438
	Stocken	418	398	372
	Sudbury	208	203	183
	Wellingborough	335	326	291
	Whatton	478	457	420
East of England	Bedford	276	279	265
	Blundeston	308	311	288
	Bullwood Hall	169	159	152
	Bure	24	311	308
	Chelmsford	437	419	409
	Edmunds Hill	243	220	220
	Highpoint	510	444	449
	Hollesley Bay	161	154	144
	Littlehey	323	610	594
	Norwich	411	404	376
	The Mount	357	342	341
	Warren Hill	249	247	251
	Wayland	463	423	417
	Whitemoor	809	793	751
London	Belmarsh	1033	989	961
	Brixton	365	345	335
	Feltham	788	772	734
	Holloway	541	521	511
	Isis	0	312	312
	Latchmere House	84	83	81
	Pentonville	652	607	606
	Wandsworth	752	738	727

Staffing requirement by region and establishment, 2009-10

		Establishment staffing requirement		
Region	*Establishment*	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
	Wormwood Scrubs	590	591	586
North East	Frankland	997	1,016	988
	Acklington	464	454	439
	Castington	394	388	338
	Deerbolt	363	350	343
	Durham	614	547	526
	Holme House	499	561	596
	Kirklevington Grange	138	137	130
	Low Newton	296	282	273
North West	Manchester	922	929	880
	Buckley Hall	199	195	198
	Garth	533	504	482
	Haverigg	322	330	329
	Hindley	447	447	427
	Kennet	294	289	271
	Kirkham	235	231	204
	Lancaster	164	167	159
	Lancaster Farms	383	372	363
	Liverpool	609	607	587
	Preston	455	439	421
	Risley	500	488	485
	Styal	331	321	312
	Thorn Cross	209	190	180
	Wymott	551	532	530
South East	Aylesbury	336	307	311
	Blantyre House	67	67	65
	Bullingdon	514	489	476
	Canterbury	187	184	187
	Coldingley	286	287	274
	Cookham Wood	235	236	248
	Dover	288	257	259
	Downview	227	228	216
	East Sutton Park	59	61	62
	Ford	171	172	166
	Grendon	320	316	293
	Haslar	106	104	100
	High Down	613	502	483
	Huntercombe	303	309	225
	Isle of Wight	941	911	876
	Kingston	139	139	132
	Lewes	376	358	365
	Maidstone	294	297	281
	Reading	226	205	198
	Rochester	509	494	454
	Send	193	200	191
	Sheppey Cluster	1,301	1,467	1,370
	Winchester	367	367	341
	Woodhill	782	780	766
South West	Bristol	374	366	369

Staffing requirement by region and establishment, 2009-10

		Establishment staffing requirement		
Region	*Establishment*	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
	Channings Wood	371	349	343
	Dartmoor	346	332	326
	Dorchester	200	184	171
	Eastwood Park	339	282	276
	Erlestoke	262	258	259
	Exeter	335	317	308
	Gloucester	219	218	211
	Guys Marsh	293	289	267
	Leyhill	222	221	209
	Portland	383	358	348
	Shepton Mallet	144	139	140
	The Verne	268	260	263
Wales	Cardiff	457	421	440
	Swansea	252	239	240
	Usk/Prescoed	211	169	185
West Midlands	Long Lartin	655	732	706
	Birmingham	810	753	753
	Brinsford	415	400	369
	Drake Hall	189	177	181
	Featherstone	349	331	333
	Hewell	652	654	656
	Shrewsbury	215	207	206
	Stafford	388	380	367
	Stoke Heath	474	455	455
	Swinfen Hall	418	400	384
	Werrington	140	182	184
Yorkshire and Humberside	Full Sutton	786	788	762
	Wakefield	773	765	741
	Askham Grange	73	73	60
	Everthorpe	316	300	283
	Hull	504	489	492
	Leeds	578	576	582
	Lindholme	530	511	478
	Moorland	507	499	497
	New Hall	380	374	373
	Northallerton	142	141	134
	Wealstun	333	330	431
	Wetherby	388	388	417
Total		48,512	48,426	46,720

The National Offender Management Service is currently in the process of finalising budget allocations for 2011-12. Once we have completed this process we will able to provide an indication of staff complements by (i) region and (ii) Prison Service establishment.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Hyndburn (Graham Jones) of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 155-56, on prison service (resources), how many Prison Service staff were employed in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the likely number of redundancies among Prison Service staff in each (i) region and (ii) Prison Service establishment in 2011-12. [50908]

Mr Blunt: Information on the full-time equivalent staff in post by region and establishment, for 31 March 2009, 31 March 2010 and 31 December 2010 are shown in the following tables:

Staff in post by region 2009-10

	Full-time equivalent staff in post		
Region	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
East Midlands	5,304	5,050	4,634
East of England	4,568	4,671	4,572
London	4,518	4,356	4,423
North East	3,641	3,551	3,495
North West	6,115	5,822	5,712
South East	8,321	7,990	7,791
South West	3,634	3,329	3,328
Wales	880	799	825
West Midlands	4,638	4,473	4,395
Yorkshire and Humberside	5,271	5,040	5,046
Total	46,889	45,079	44,220

Staff in post by region and establishment, 2009-10

		Full-time equivalent staff in post		
Region	*Establishment*	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
East Midlands	Ashwell	310	267	201
	Foston Hall	296	283	251
	Gartree	445	425	396
	Glen Parva	481	444	445
	Leicester	236	226	205
	Lincoln	390	368	340
	Morton Hall	223	209	176
	North Sea Camp	145	133	119
	Nottingham	403	508	[illegible]31
	Onley	399	400	352
	Ranby	554	517	458
	Stocken	409	360	349
	Sudbury	207	190	166
	Wellingborough	333	292	250
	Whatton	472	428	395
East of England	Bedford	272	241	239
	Blundeston	309	282	270
	Bullwood Hall	164	146	139
	Bure	23	281	287
	Chelmsford	405	381	371
	Edmunds Hill	231	214	196
	Highpoint	468	439	407
	Hollesley Bay	147	141	132
	Littlehey	329	499	523
	Norwich	446	363	352
	The Mount	344	329	315
	Warren Hill	238	226	228
	Wayland	443	391	389
	Whitemoor	748	738	724
London	Belmarsh	944	891	867
	Brixton	353	333	320
	Feltham	732	709	686
	Holloway	507	476	442
	Isis	—	56	250
	Latchmere House	82	79	78
	Pentonville	60[illegible]	588	558
	Wandsworth	717	688	680

Staff in post by region and establishment, 2009-10

Region	*Establishment*	*Full-time equivalent staff in post* *31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
	Wormwood Scrubs	579	536	540
North East	Frankland	950	961	932
	Acklington	455	448	439
	Castington	370	364	327
	Deerbolt	361	329	327
	Durham	585	542	527
	Holme House	493	500	537
	Kirklevington Grange	135	129	126
	Low Newton	291	278	278
North West	Manchester	865	845	835
	Buckley Hall	215	197	216
	Garth	519	481	487
	Haverigg	319	312	301
	Hindley	451	418	410
	Kennet	291	276	261
	Kirkham	232	224	217
	Lancaster	174	162	160
	Lancaster Farms	407	369	349
	Liverpool	624	608	591
	Preston	465	436	422
	Risley	492	476	473
	Styal	323	322	310
	Thorn Cross	199	186	175
	Wymott	539	510	507
South East	Aylesbury	304	288	267
	Blantyre House	68	65	66
	Bullingdon	482	464	449
	Canterbury	195	178	176
	Coldingley	255	258	255
	Cookham Wood	220	211	216
	Dover	254	244	237
	Downview	220	208	205
	East Sutton Park	60	58	59
	Ford	167	156	155
	Grendon	318	307	287
	Haslar	104	96	96
	High Down	549	490	475
	Huntercombe	276	272	234
	Isle of Wight	924	858	835
	Kingston	145	124	125
	Lewes	357	342	333
	Maidstone	296	280	270
	Reading	203	177	181
	Rochester	473	444	397
	Send	177	173	181
	Sheppey Cluster	1192	1224	1239
	Winchester	353	339	322
	Woodhill	731	734	733
South West	Bristol	361	330	331

Staff in post by region and establishment, 2009-10

Region	*Establishment*	*Full-time equivalent staff in post* *31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 December 2010*
	Channings Wood	371	334	346
	Dartmoor	335	310	306
	Dorchester	196	172	167
	Eastwood Park	290	259	253
	Erlestoke	250	230	229
	Exeter	328	288	284
	Gloucester	207	203	200
	Guys Marsh	281	269	281
	Leyhill	210	191	193
	Portland	386	363	355
	Shepton Mallet	144	130	130
	The Verne	273	248	253
Wales	Cardiff	443	417	424
	Swansea	245	220	228
	Usk/Prescoed	192	162	173
West Midlands	Long Lartin	674	683	669
	Birmingham	782	735	706
	Brinsford	398	386	368
	Drake Hall	182	173	174
	Featherstone	353	353	345
	Hewell	647	610	611
	Shrewsbury	218	202	201
	Stafford	383	378	364
	Stoke Heath	444	418	420
	Swinfen Hall	386	364	357
	Werrington	171	170	178
Yorkshire and Humberside	Full Sutton	763	735	718
	Wakefield	746	715	696
	Askham Grange	75	74	62
	Everthorpe	308	300	284
	Hull	498	500	480
	Leeds	602	555	575
	Lindholme	525	476	467
	Moorland	502	479	483
	New Hall	385	366	353
	Northallerton	141	128	130
	Wealstun	349	355	399
	Wetherby	377	357	401
Total		46,889	45,079	44,220

The National Offender Management Service is currently in the process of finalising budget allocations for 2011-12. Once we have completed this process we will able to provide an indication of staff complements by (a) region and (b) establishment and the number of staff above natural wastage we will need to lose.

Prisoners: McDonald's Meals

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received on the purchasing of McDonald's meals for prisoners by Prison Service staff. [50389]

Mr Blunt: All prisons must have a local contingency plan in place to cover the provision of alternative catering arrangements in the event that normal facilities are lost. Plans may identify, for immediate short term purposes, local sources of ready prepared meals which may include take away facilities. I am not aware, though, of any reports such as referred to by the hon. Member.

Prisoners: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners had a home address in Poole constituency on the most recent date for which figures are available. [50514]

Mr Blunt: Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses include a prisoner's home address, an address to which they intend to return on discharge and next of kin and these figures are provided in the following table.

If no address is given, a prisoner's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which a prisoner is resident. This is required for about 40% of the prison population and these figures are also provided in the following table. No address has been recorded and no court information is available for around 3% of prisoners, these figures are excluded from the answer.

The following table shows the number of convicted prisoners as at March 25 2011 who have a recorded residential address or proxy, as described above in the constituency area of Poole.

	Number of prisoners
Recorded address	40
Proxy address	13
Total	53

The figures include convicted male and female prisoners, adults, young offenders and juveniles that are held in prisons and young offender institutions.

Reoffenders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate was for *(a)* male offenders, *(b)* female offenders and *(c)* female offenders housed in a women's rehabilitation centre in the last year for which figures are available. [50978]

Mr Blunt: The one year re-conviction data cover all adult offenders released from custody or commencing a court order between January and March 2009.

The following table shows the one year re-conviction rates for male and female adult offenders.

Adult one-year re-conviction rates, 2009, by gender

Gender	*Number of offenders*	*Re-conviction rate (%)*
Males	49,104	40.1
Females	7,512	34.5
Total	56,616	39.3

Further breakdowns of re-conviction data for female offenders housed in a women's rehabilitation centre is not available.

More information on the re-conviction rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Reparation by Offenders: Finance

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the funding allocation was for restorative justice schemes in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what level of funding he has allocated for such schemes in 2011-12. [50979]

Mr Blunt: The MoJ does not directly commission restorative justice services. A number of services are funded locally but we do not hold central information on what these allocations amount to. To support professional standards for delivering restorative justice, the Ministry of Justice allocated £25,000 in 2009-10 and £75,000 in 2010-11 to the Restorative Justice Council (previously Consortium) to support their work in providing quality assurance to restorative justice schemes through the dissemination of best practice, standards and accreditation. This includes the development of a new online national Trainers Register and new Practitioner Register, due to be launched this year

As we set out in the recent Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle', we want to increase the range and availability of restorative justice approaches. We will be publishing our response to the consultation in May which will set out our approach to help deliver more effective restorative practices.

Trespass

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the law on trespass; what recent representations he has received on the law on trespass; and if he will make a statement. [50266]

Mr Blunt: We have received a number of representations from MPs and members of the public calling for the law on squatting to be strengthened. I also spoke in an Adjournment Debate in Westminster Hall on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 97WH, where the problems caused by squatters were discussed. As I mentioned during that debate, we continue to look at the options for strengthening the law and will announce our plans soon. In the meantime we have published new guidance on the 'Direct Gov' website for property owners on evicting squatters from their properties.

Wills: Regulation

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to regulate unqualified and uninsured will writers. [50877]

Mr Djanogly: I have no plans to regulate will writers at present. However, The Legal Services Act 2007 (LSA) contains provisions which allow the Legal Services Board to recommend to me that a legal service such as will writing becomes a reserved legal activity, which would then be regulated.

Since the Legal Services Board (LSB) is currently investigating whether or not it would be in the interests of the legal consumer to regulate will writing, it is more appropriate for me to await the outcome of that investigation before making an assessment of next steps.

CABINET OFFICE

National Citizen Service Pilot Schemes

Mr Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many places on the National Citizen Service pilot schemes will be available in *(a)* Poole and *(b)* Dorset in the summer of 2011. [50495]

Mr Hurd: No National Citizen Service pilots took place in 2001.

There are no NCS pilots planned in the areas of Poole or Dorset in 2011, but there are 1,175 pilot places spread across the south-west region. A list of the numbers planned in each geographical location is available in the Libraries of the House. I have also written to every hon. Member whose constituency is likely to overlap with a local NCS pilot.

There is also regional map of NCS 2011 pilot locations available at:

www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcitizenservice

which provides contact details for every lead delivery organisation.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many expressions of interest in the National Citizen Service pilot he has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations. [50522]

Mr Hurd: Two hundred and fifty expressions of interest to deliver National Citizen Service pilots in summer 2011 were received in the competitive commissioning process opened on 2 August 2010. All applications were received from organisations or consortia of organisations. The process was not open to individuals.

A competitive commissioning for delivering National Citizen Service pilots planned for summer 2012 opened on 9 March 2011. The deadline for initial proposals is 5 May 2011 and the process is only open to organisations or consortia (not individuals). Details of how to apply are available on the Cabinet Office and Department for Education websites.

National Citizen Service 2011 pilots are now recruiting 16-year-olds to take part and individuals to help run the activities as volunteers or paid staff. Anyone interested can visit

www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcitizenservice

or

www.facebook.com/ncs

to find out if there is a pilot in their local area and get contact details for the lead delivery organisation.

Cancer: Bolton

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many patients were *(a)* screened for, *(b)* diagnosed with and *(c)* treated for cancer in (i) Bolton South East constituency and (ii) Bolton borough in each of the last five years. [50551]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients were (a) screened for (b) diagnosed with and (c) treated for cancer in (i) Bolton South East consistency and (ii) Bolton borough in each of the last five years. [50551]

The latest available figures for (b) newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The tables attached provide the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in (i) Bolton South East parliamentary consistency (Table 1) and (ii) Bolton metropolitan district (Table 2), for years 2004 to 2008.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf

ONS does not publish figures on the number of patients (a) screened for and (c) treated for cancer. The NHS Information Centre (NHS-IC) publishes figures on the number of patients invited to breast and cervical screening, for strategic health authorities and primary care trusts. The latest published figures can be found on the NHS-IC website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/screening

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, Bolton South East parliamentary constituency, 2004-08[1, 2, 3]

	Number of persons
2004	449
2005	448
2006	448
2007	488
2008	449

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, Bolton metropolitan district, 2004-08[1, 2, 3]

	Number of persons
2004	1,261
2005	1,251
2006	1,350
2007	1,325
2008	1,309

[1] Cancer incidence is defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44, non-melanoma skin cancer.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Census

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* production and *(b)* dispatch of forms for the 2011 Census printed in both English and Welsh; and what the cost to the public purse was of postage for such forms sent to addresses in Wales. [50431]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the cost to the public purse of (a) production and (b) dispatch of forms for the 2011 Census printed in both English and Welsh; and what the cost to the public purse was of postage for such forms sent to addresses in Wales. (50431)

The printing of questionnaires, envelopes, information leaflets, guides to questions and other printed materials for the 2011 Census is all part of one large contract and it is not possible to extract accurate figures specifically for the costs of printing questionnaires due to the amount of set-up, development and storage costs within this larger cost.

The cost of printing all of the millions of questionnaires, information leaflets, and envelopes etc, which is estimated to be over one billion separate pieces of paper, is £18,057,000 at contract award.

In Wales there were 3,811,400 questionnaires printed, half of which were in English and half in Welsh in order to comply with ONS's obligations under its own Welsh Language Scheme and the provisions of the Welsh Language Act.

The cost for the delivery of questionnaires to households in Wales is part of a postal contract with Royal Mail. In Wales the cost of delivering the questionnaire pack to households was 0.30p. Each questionnaire pack comprised both an English and a Welsh Language questionnaire, return envelope and information leaflets. This came to a total of £434,763 which covered the delivery of 1,418,677 questionnaire packs.

The remaining questionnaires printed, but not delivered, are either individual questionnaires, replacement questionnaires or continuation questionnaires. These are available on request and will, if required, either be issued by census field staff in the course of their duties or will be delivered separately from this initial round of deliveries.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what arrangements the Office for National Statistics has to include in the 2011 census returns members of HM armed forces normally resident in the UK who were serving in Afghanistan on 27 March 2011; [50507]

(2) whether the total population of Colchester reckoned in the 2011 census will include those members of the armed forces normally based at Merville Barracks, Colchester, who are serving in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [50508]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking (i) what arrangements the Office for National Statistics has to include in the 2011 Census returns members of HM forces normally resident in the UK who are serving in Afghanistan on 27 March 2011 (50507); and, (ii) whether the total population of Colchester reckoned in the 2011 Census will include those members of HM armed forces normally based at Merville Barracks, Colchester, who are serving in Afghanistan. (50508)

Armed forces personnel based in the UK are counted as usually resident in the UK. This applies even if they are deployed outside the UK, (for example serving in Afghanistan) on census day, 27 March. Such people should be included on the questionnaire sent to their permanent home in the UK, for example, their family home. Those members of the armed forces without a permanent address other than the military base where they are based, should be recorded as a resident at the base address.

In some situations this may mean that armed forces personnel are recorded as being resident at the home of their parents, which may be in a different area of England and Wales from where they are based. In these circumstances, those responsible for completing the questionnaire in respect of armed forces personnel are asked in question 5 whether or not the person in question stays at another address for more than 30 days a year. They should tick the 'yes' box and record the address of the military base where that person is based. In question 6 they are then asked if the address given in question 5 is an armed forces base.

ONS can then produce accurate population statistics for those areas containing armed forces bases, showing the number of people who actually live and use services in an area, rather than just the number of people who record themselves as actually living in such areas.

Therefore, armed forces personnel based in Colchester, will be recorded in the census population statistics as staying in Colchester, whether or not they are deployed in Afghanistan.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons Lockheed Martin were contracted to gather UK Census data. [50578]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for what reasons Lockheed Martin were contracted to gather UK census data. (50578)

ONS has a statutory duty to take the 2011 Census in England and Wales and is legally responsible for gathering and processing the data to create census statistics.

Lockheed Martin UK was contracted to provide a range of support services for the England and Wales census because it provided the best value for money, the best technical solution, and was compliant with the requirements as set out in the procurement process.

ONS carried out a fully compliant procurement in accordance with the requirements of European law and the European Union Procurement Directives, which have been incorporated into English law.

No employees of Lockheed Martin UK, or their US parent, will have any access to personal census data.

Community Development: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans his Department has to provide opportunities for the training of community organisers in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London. [50850]

Mr Hurd: The first community organisers to be trained in London will be placed in Camberwell and in Canning Town, hosted in local VCS organisations. At the moment, there are no plans to train and place community organisers in the London borough of Bexley.

The initial approach of Locality (the delivery partner for the Community Organiser programme) is to work through its membership of community-led and owned neighbourhood centres. These are willing to recruit, support and sustain community organisers in their role. However, involvement is not limited to Locality's membership and any interested organisation can make an expression of interest through Locality's website.

The first tranche of 30 trainees will be hosted by 'kick-starter' organisations in Cumbria, Hull, Manchester, Birmingham, east counties, Bristol, Cornwall and London.

Community Relations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of differing levels of trust within a community on levels of (i) crime and (ii) mental health disorders. [48303]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not commissioned research on the effects of differing levels of trust within communities on levels of crime or mental health problems.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on legal fees in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [46528]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has spent the following on legal fees:

2009-10; £2,066,447

2010-11 (to end of February 2011): £2,642,005.

Employment: Graduates

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* graduate and *(b)* post-graduate level jobs with starting salaries of £20,000 or more per annum there were in each region in the most recent year for which figures are available. [49294]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 28 March 2011]*: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of graduate jobs available per annum is not held by the Department.

Information on the salaries of graduates six months after graduating is collected via the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. Graduates in employment are asked to declare their salary. Not all graduates eligible to declare a salary do so: the response rate to this question is usually around 50%. Therefore, the following table shows the proportion of DLHE respondents declaring a salary who were earning £20,000 or more per annum, rather than the number.

The information presented in the table relates to all jobs which graduates are employed in, not specifically those defined as graduate level jobs.

Proportion of UK domiciled graduates who studied full-time, entered full-time employment in the UK six months after graduating and declared a salary in the DLHE survey, who were earning £20,000 or more per annum: graduates in academic year 2008/09

Percentage

Region of employment	*First degree*	*Postgraduate*
North East	50.3	81.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	42.4	81.8
North West	44.2	82.7
East Midlands	46.0	84.2
West Midlands	50.0	86.0
East	49.0	87.9
London	61.8	89.4
South East	50.3	86.4
South West	46.5	80.8
Channel Islands and Isle of Man	72.1	87.5
England region unknown	55.9	77.7
Wales	44.6	77.8
Scotland	57.3	80.1
Northern Ireland	41.5	66.1
Not known	58.6	75.9
All regions	50.9	84.4

Source:
DLHE survey Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Public Expenditure

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanisms have been put in place to enable members of the public to make suggestions to the Government in support of its Big Society agenda. [50460]

Mr Hurd: Big Society is about shifting power away from Whitehall to give the public greater control over their communities, by decentralising power, supporting community action and opening up public services.

The Cabinet Office has invited wide input into policy related to the Big Society, receiving around 500 responses to our consultation on supporting the VCSE sector: 'Supporting a Stronger Civil Society', through the 'Sector Challenge' which invited the voluntary sector's ideas on spending reductions, and through our Green Paper on Giving which elicited around 400 responses.

The Government have explicitly invited comments on how Big Society can be accelerated through the Department for Communities and Local Government 'Barrier Busting' website, and Departments also routinely consult on relevant policy issues such as the involvement of local people in public health, and neighbourhood justice panels.

Public Sector Workers

Mr Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has received any expressions of interest in forming a mutual from any public sector workers in *(a)* Poole and *(b)* Dorset. [50497]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not directly received any expressions of interest from public sector workers interested in forming a mutual from Dorset or Poole. However, the Cabinet Office would of course be pleased to engage with any interested parties in these areas.

The Mutuals Information Service run by Local Partnerships, Employee Ownership Association and Co-operatives UK reports that they have received inquiries from two groups of public sector workers in this area.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48299]

Mr Hurd: Officials are currently looking at the best way for Departments to regularly report publicly on spending, both in terms of baseline levels and how these levels change through the spending period.

It is therefore not currently possible to provide this information without the Department incurring disproportionate costs.

Details of all new central Government contracts are now available online at

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on encouraging people to volunteer in each of the last five years; and how much he expects to spend in each of the next five years. [48304]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office annual report and accounts contain details of the Department's spending on programmes to encourage participation in society. The accounts for 2008 - 09 and 2009-10 are available on the Cabinet Office website at

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/plans-and-performance

Departmental expenditure by programme area is detailed in note 11, page 98.

Data covering 2007-08 and 2006-07 are available in previous Cabinet Office annual reports, which can be found on the National Archive of the Cabinet Office website at

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100304041448/
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Budgets for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 have not been finalised.

Training: Community Organisers

Mr Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what opportunities his Department plans to make available for training community organisers in *(a)* Poole and *(b)* Dorset. [50498]

Mr Hurd: At the moment, there are no plans to train and place Community Organisers in Poole and Dorset. Locality's initial approach is to work through its membership of community-led and owned neighbourhood centres, willing to recruit, support and sustain community organisers in their role.

However, involvement is not limited to Locality's membership and any interested organisation can make an expression of interest through Locality's web site.

The first tranche of 30 trainees will be hosted by 'kick-starter' organisations in Cumbria, Hull, Manchester, Birmingham, east counties and London. In the south west region, there are two further kick-starters in Bristol and Penwith, Cornwall.

Transition Fund

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many applications to the Transition Fund from each parliamentary constituency have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful to date. [50233]

Mr Hurd: To date there have been 201 awards from the Transition Fund. We do not publish details of unsuccessful applicants. A table of the breakdown of successful awards by constituency has been placed in the Library of the House.

Constituency	*Number of awards*
Barking	1
Barnsley Central	1
Bermondsey and Old Southwark	2
Bethnal Green and Bow	3
Bexhill and Battle	1
Birkenhead	2
Birmingham, Hall Green	2
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	2
Birmingham, Ladywood	4
Birmingham, Perry Barr	2
Blackburn	1
Bolton South East	1
Bournemouth West	1
Bradford East	1
Bradford West	2
Bridgwater and West Somerset	1
Brighton, Kemptown	1
Brighton, Pavilion	1
Bristol East	4
Bristol West	3
Bury North	2
Bury St Edmunds	1
Camberwell and Peckham	1
Camborne and Redruth	1
Cambridge	1
Carshalton and Wallington	1
Coventry, South	1
Croydon North	1
Darlington	1
Daventry	1
Derby North	1
Doncaster Central	2
Dulwich and West Norwood	2
Easington	1
Edmonton	1
Exeter	4
Filton and Bradley Stoke	1
Gloucester	3
Great Grimsby	1
Great Yarmouth	2
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	1
Hackney South and Shoreditch	5
Hammersmith	3
Hampstead and Kilburn	1
Harborough	1
Harlow	1
Harrogate and Knaresborough	1
Hartlepool	4
Holborn and St Pancras	4
Hove	1
Ipswich	1
Isle of Wight	1
Islington North	4
Islington South and Finsbury	4
Kenilworth and Southam	1
Kensington	1
Kettering	1
Kingston Upon Hull North	1
Leeds Central	2
Leeds North West	1
Leicester South	3
Leicester West	2
Leigh	1
Lewisham East	1
Lichfield	1
Lincoln	1
Liverpool, Riverside	1
Liverpool, Walton	1
Liverpool, West Derby	1
Loughborough	3
Luton South	1
Manchester Central	1
Middlesbrough	3
Morecambe and Lunesdale	1
Newark	1
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	2
Newcastle upon Tyne East	2
North Cornwall	1

Constituency	*Number of awards*
North East Somerset	1
North Shropshire	1
North Tyneside	1
Norwich South	1
Nottingham East	3
Nottingham North	1
Oldham East and Saddleworth	1
Oldham West and Royton	1
Oxford East	1
Pendle	2
Plymouth Moor View	1
Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport	2
Putney	1
Reading East	1
Reigate	1
Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner	1
Rushcliffe	1
Sedgefield	1
Sheffield Central	3
Shrewsbury and Atcham	1
Slough	1
Somerton and Frome	1
South Swindon	1
South West Devon	1
Southampton, Itchen	1
St Helens South and Whiston	1
St Ives	1
Stockton South	1
Stourbridge	1
Stretford and Urmston	3
Stroud	1
Sutton Coldfield	2
Telford	1
Thirsk and Malton	1
Tonbridge and Malling	1
Tooting	2
Torridge and West Devon	1
Tottenham	2
Twickenham	1
Tynemouth	1
Vauxhall	2
Walthamstow	1
Warley	1
Warwick and Leamington	1
Waveney	1
Wells	1
Welwyn Hatfield	1
Wentworth and Dearne	1
West Bromwich East	1
West Bromwich West	1
West Dorset	1
Westminster North	2
Winchester	1
Worcester	1
Wycombe	1
Wythenshawe and Sale East	1
York Central	1
Grand total	201

Mr Syms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any charities or voluntary groups in *(a)* Poole and *(b)* Dorset have received support from the Transition Fund. [50496]

Mr Hurd: There have been no Transition Fund awards so far to charities in Poole. There were two Transition Fund awards made in March to charities in Dorset. Further details about these were published in the press release issued on 22 March. These early awards will be followed by many more during April and May.

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance to strategic health authorities and clinical panels on steps to ensure timely access to the Cancer Drugs Fund by patients with a late diagnosis of cancer. [50589]

Paul Burstow: The Department published 'Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2010-11' on 23 March 2011. The guidance is intended primarily for strategic health authorities (SHAs) and their clinically-led panels.

The guidance specifies that it is imperative that decisions affecting individuals' treatment are made in a timely fashion. SHAs should ensure that the process put in place supports timely decision-making for all cancer patients, bearing in mind the 31-day cancer treatment standard.

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Clostridium

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of recurrences of *clostridium difficile* were due to re-infection rather than relapse in the latest period for which figures are available; and how such recurrences are recorded in mandatory surveillance statistics. [50560]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) does not routinely collect data on the proportion of *Clostridium difficile* infections that were as a result of re-infection rather than relapse. The HPA surveillance system is only able to capture data on numbers of cases diagnosed. In order to establish whether a particular infection is a re-infection or a relapse, it is necessary to culture the organism (not a routine test) then perform strain typing (additional molecular test). This will give some idea as to whether the infection is new or not.

Dental Services

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost to *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* dental practices of the Care Quality Commission registration process for dental practitioners. [51014]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission estimates that the cost to them of registering primary dental care providers in 2011-12 will be £15.8 million. These costs will be met by an estimated £8.1 million paid in fees by primary dental care providers and £7.7 million of grant in aid provided by the Department.

In addition, the Department has estimated that the cost to primary dental care providers of applying for registration for the first time and complying with the registration requirements would be a one-off cost of between £4 million and £4.8 million.

Departmental Consultants

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has hosted any meetings with representatives of Mandate Communications over the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [50725]

Mr Simon Burns: No.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50698]

Mr Simon Burns: A search of the Department's central procurements database shows that no contracts have been entered into with Lockheed Martin up to 31 December 2010. The central database was introduced in July 2008; to gather any further information on previous years, before the introduction of the database, would involve a search within every departmental directorate which would involve disproportionate cost.

None of the Department's associated public bodies has signed a contract with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50195]

Mr Simon Burns: Data taken from ministerial diaries are set out in the following table. Data are up to and including the 30 March 2011.

Minister	*Last date travelled by ministerial Government car service pool car*	*Number of times a ministerial car was used to travel to constituency*
Secretary of State	30 March 2011	12
Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns)	30 March 2011	154
Minister of State (Paul Burstow)	24 March 2011	29
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Anne Milton)	30 March 2011	134
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)	28 March 2011	[1]—

[1] Does not have a constituency.

Notes:

1. In line with the new Ministerial Code, Ministers at the Department gave up their allocated cars and drivers when existing contracts ended on 19 August 2010.
2. In line with the Ministerial code, Ministers are permitted the use of an official car for official business and for home to office journeys within a reasonable distance of London on the understanding that they would normally be carrying classified papers on which they would be working.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50086]

(2) how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on government business. [50173]

Mr Simon Burns: All Ministers in the Department use public transport, where practical, while travelling on official Government business. However, the information requested is not formally recorded.

Oyster cards paid for by the Department, under the prepay system, are used when Ministers are travelling on official business. Ministers regularly use their own personal oyster cards to cover the cost of such journeys. No monthly or annual travel cards are paid for by the Department, but where Ministers have these and they are valid on London transport, they use them to travel on official business.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50204]

Mr Simon Burns: The information held on the Department's Business Management System shows that invoices were processed from 1 May 2010 to 28 February 2011 for the amounts to the value shown in the following table:[1]

£

Minister	*Ministerial car costs*[2]	*Train costs*	*Bus and London underground*	*Commercial air travel costs*[3]	*Private air travel costs*
Secretary of State	35,762	1,850	[4]—	2,610	0
Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns)	41,384	653	[4]—	3,603	0
Minister of State (Mr Paul Burstow)	25,853	314	[4]—	0	0
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Anne Milton)	39,344	1,705	[4]—	336	0

£

Minister	*Ministerial car costs*[2]	*Train costs*	*Bus and London underground*	*Commercial air travel costs*[3]	*Private air travel costs*
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)	28,069	726	[4]—	0	0

[1] Data have been extracted from the categories listed above as defined on the Department's Business Management System. Data are incomplete as spend categorised as general office expenditure can include ministerial train, bus and London underground costs, which cannot be readily identified on the system.

[2] In line with the new Ministerial Code, Ministers at the Department gave up their allocated cars and drivers when existing contracts ended on 19 August 2010.

[3] Includes both United Kingdom and overseas flight costs.

[4] Unknown.

Exercise

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on sporting and physical activity as a means of maintaining health; and whether he is taking steps to reflect this position in health policies. [50423]

Anne Milton: Promoting the benefits of regular participation in physical activity remains central to the Government's commitment to improve public health and well-being in England. The health benefits of physical activity are significant. As well as assisting in the maintenance of a healthy weight, physical activity can have a beneficial effect on up to 20 chronic diseases or conditions, including a lower risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, mental health and certain types of cancer.

The Public Health White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" sets out the Government's strategy for public health in England.

The Government are also keen to maximise the opportunities to get the least active children and young people involved in sport and physical activity. Therefore, the Department is investing up to £20 million to promote physical activity for children and young people through Change4Life sports clubs and the School Games, in partnership with Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Education.

General Practitioners

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to put in place for *(a)* GP consortia and *(b)* foundation trusts at risk of financial failure; and if he will make a statement. [51019]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for assessment of the performance of general practitioner (GP) consortia. The Health and Social Care Bill will introduce clear powers to enable the NHS Commissioning Board to intervene where a GP consortium is failing to discharge its functions or where there is a risk of it failing to do so. This includes a consortium's duty to ensure that expenditure in any financial year does not exceed their allocated budget.

The powers set out in the Bill will be supported by regulations that will set out the process for using the powers of intervention set out in the Bill. Guidance will be published on these areas by the Board so that there is a clear, transparent, rules-based approach to intervention.

Commissioners would have primary responsibility for ensuring the continuity of health care services, on behalf of their populations, and whether provided by NHS foundation trusts, GP practices or other independent providers. The Health and Social Care Bill proposes that commissioners would review services in consultation with local partners and apply to Monitor to designate services as subject to additional regulation, where withdrawal of those services would result in adverse impact on health and there are no alternative providers. Monitor would have an important role, as economic regulator, in supporting commissioners by imposing additional regulation to secure continued access to designated services, including, as a last resort, by implementing a special administration regime to secure continued provision of designated services in an insolvency. In addition, the Bill proposes additional safeguards against foundation trust failure, for a transitional period, in the form of additional powers for Monitor to intervene and direct foundation trusts at risk of failing and, where necessary, to remove members of the Board.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to put in place any *(a)* criteria and *(b)* limits on performance-related payments to GP consortia. [51020]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have proposed that general practitioner consortia that achieve high quality outcomes for patients within the resources available to them should receive a quality premium. The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for developing a commissioning outcomes framework that will enable the Board to hold consortia to account for the quality of services they commission and promote continuous improvement in health care outcomes. This framework will also ensure that there are clear criteria for awarding the quality premium.

We are committed to ensuring that these arrangements create the right incentives for consortia to achieve high-quality outcomes for patients and that there are appropriate limits on payments.

Hospitals

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital projects exceeding £50 million *(a)* started and *(b)* were completed in each year since 1997. [50756]

Mr Simon Burns: The hospital building projects with a capital value exceeding £50 million which started and were completed in each year since 1997 are shown in the following tables:

Private finance initiative (PFI) schemes by financial close and operational (defined as first patient day) date

Scheme	*Financial close*	*Operational date*	*Capital value (£ million)*
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	3 November 1997	10 April 2000	67
Dartford and Gravesham Hospital NHS Trust	30 July 1997	11 September 2000	94
South London NHS Trust (Queen Elizabeth)	1 July 1998	28 February 2001	96
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Dryburn)	31 March 1998	2 April 2001	61
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	31 July 1998	8 April 2001	65
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	8 June 1998	25 July2001	67
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	9 January 1998	21 September 2001	158
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	31 March 1999	1 March 2002	64
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1 February 1999	2 March 2002	54
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	18 March 1999	18 March 2002	87
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	6 December 1999	7 October 2002	76
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Swindon and Marlborough)	5 October 1999	3 December 2002	100
South London NHS Trust (Bromley)	19 November 1998	29 March 2003	118
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	30 January 2001	16 May 2003	60
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	27 April 2001	12 July 2003	55
South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	16 August 1999	1 August 2003	122
The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1 May 2001	1 April 2005	137
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12 July 2000	12 June 2005	422
Wandsworth Teaching PCT	6 May 2004	10 March 2006	75
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	6 November 2003	19 March 2006	69
Avon and Western Wiltshire MH NHS Trust	1 March 2004	13 June 2006	83
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	27 January 2004	8 July 2006	55
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (Blackburn)	9 July 2003	8 July 2006	110
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	27 November. 2002	10 July 2006	379
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	8 July 2004	27 November 2006	72
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	15 January 2004	6 December 2006	238
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	19 December 2003	13 January 2007	134
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	27 October 2004	18 May 2007	76
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	15 October 2004	15 December 2007	265
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	21 February 2006	23 August 2008	67
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	27 April 2005	22 September 2008	299
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	1 June 2006	22 October 2008	338
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	13 December 2005	19 March 2009	129
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	29 October 2005	7 April 2009	326
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12 September 2003	20 May 2009	312
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS trust	12 December 2005	15 June 2009	236
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14 December 2004	8 July 2009	512
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust	12 December 2007	10 May 2010	75
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	3 November 2007	24 May 2010	169
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	27 July 2007	1 June 2010	144
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	22 June 2007	7 June 2010	353
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust/Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	8 June 2006	16 June 2010	627
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	29 June 2007	15 November 2010	336
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	6 December 2007	20 November 2010	148
Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	13 September 2007	22 November 2010	109
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	26 March 2008	26 January 2011	304
North Bristol NHS Trust	25 February 2010	Quarter 1 2014	430
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5 September 2007	Quarter 4 2011	190
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	13 June 2007	Quarter 4 2012	375
Barts and the London NHS Trust	27 April 2006	Quarter 4 2013	1,000

Public capital funded schemes by tender award and operational (defined as first patient day) date

Scheme	*Tender award*	*Operational date*	*Capital value (£ million)*
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	1 July 1997	27 July 2002	84
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	1 October 2003	1 September 2004	57
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	19 September 1998	31 October2005	50
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	1 February 2004	31 July 2006	53
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	31 January 2005	1 July 2007	59
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1 August 2006	6 February 2009	51
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	1 December 2006	26 March 2009	55
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust/North Bristol NHS Trust	16 October 2006	12 May 2009	64
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	9 October 2006	Quarter 3 2011	75

Hospitals: Abuse

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on measures to prevent the mistreatment of elderly patients in hospital. [50511]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government are determined to make the national health service more patient-centred and more responsive to the people it serves. We are focusing on achieving outcomes that are among the best in the world and putting patient safety at the heart of everything the NHS does. That is why the Health and Social Care Bill will create local HealthWatch organisations to give patients more power to ensure their feedback and complaints are heard and to hold their local services to account. We will be publishing a White Paper on Adult Social Care which will also focus on quality outcomes and delivering care with dignity, respect and compassion.

In addition, following the recent ombudsman's report "Care and Compassion" the Department has commissioned, a series of unannounced inspections by the Care Quality Commission and on 15 February, the NHS chief executive, David Nicholson and the national clinical director for older people, David Oliver wrote to all NHS boards urging action in response to the report. Similarly, the chief nursing officer also raised the report findings at her February meeting with strategic health authority directors of nursing.

Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of the NHS is on steps to protect staff from abusive patients. [50590]

Mr Simon Burns: Each national health service body has a duty to address the risks to staff and ensure their safety. NHS Protect can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of violence towards NHS staff were recorded in the last six months. [50593]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of physical assaults against staff reported by national health service bodies in England is collected annually.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff in 2009-10 is contained in the document 'Tables showing number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2009-10, broken down by NHS trust/PCT', which has been placed in the Library.

Leprosy

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department last reviewed the appropriateness of leprosy as a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984; [50143]

(2) if he will discuss with the Scottish Executive the different health effects of the approaches taken in Great Britain to notification of leprosy; [50144]

(3) whether he has any plans to review the position of leprosy as a notifiable disease. [50145]

Anne Milton: The Department has no plans to review appropriateness of leprosy as a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.

A review was carried out in 2010 as part of work on development of the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, laid before Parliament on 11 March 2010, following public consultation.

The Department has no particular plans to discuss with the Scottish Executive the health effects of the different approaches taken in Great Britain to notification of leprosy.

Midwives

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per full-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in 2010. [50471]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of births in 2010 is not yet available. The following table gives the ratio of births to midwives in 2009.

Strategic health authorities	*Live births: Midwife (full-time equivalents) ratio*
North East	28.0
North West	28.7
Yorkshire and the Humber	32.2
East Midlands	38.1
West Midlands	31.8
East of England	39.0
London	34.2
South East Coast	34.0
South Central	39.0
South West	30.0
England	33.2

Source:
Birth Statistics 2009, Office for National Statistics; NHS Workforce Census 2009, NHS Information Centre

NHS: Private Sector

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future role of private healthcare providers in the NHS following implementation of his proposed structural reforms. [50757]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to increasing the choice and control that patients have over their care and treatment. Our policy is that any qualified provider, including those from the private sector, that meets national health service standards and prices should be able to provide services to patients.

NHS: Surveys

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public opinion surveys are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS Information Centre; and if he will ensure the continuation of these surveys. [51018]

Mr Simon Burns: A list of public opinion surveys which are commissioned by the Department could be provided only at disproportionate time and cost, as the Department does not hold this information centrally.

The NHS Information Centre commissions and funds the following surveys with the public:

The Health Survey for England (HSE); and

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England.

No decision about continuation of these surveys has been taken.

The NHS Information Centre also commissions the following surveys on behalf of other organisations. The costs of these surveys are met by the sponsoring organisations.

Adult Dental Health Survey 2009;

Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007: results of a household survey;

Autism Spectrum Disorders in adults living in households throughout England;

Estimating the Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Conditions in Adults: extending the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2007 in England;

Attitudes to Mental Illness Survey 2011;

Survey of Carers in Households 2009-10 England; and

Infant Feeding Survey 2005 + 2010.

Nurseries: Schools

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the provision of school nursery services of the proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill. [50473]

Anne Milton: We are working on the development of the vision for school nursing to further strengthen the understanding of the contribution of school nurses to the public health agenda.

No assessment has been made centrally. It is for local commissioning organisations to decide how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for assessing local needs including the health needs of children and young people and thus the commissioning of appropriate services including school nursing services.

'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England' describes moving to a system where school nursing teams are leaders in local services for children and young people in a structure that improves public health and protects against big public health threats. The paper reinforces the importance of school nursing as part of the public health work force securing the best health outcomes for children and young people including delivery of the 'Healthy Child Programme'.

Nurses: Working Hours

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an impact assessment in respect of proposals to discontinue night sisters in NHS hospitals. [50860]

Anne Milton: There are no central proposals to discontinue the role of night sisters in national health service hospitals. It is for local NHS organisations, who are responsible for the number and skill mix of their work force, to satisfy requirements on consulting local partners and communities and to undertake the relevant assessment of impact and equality analysis.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will maintain funding for hospital chaplaincy as part of his Palliative Care Funding Review. [50040]

Paul Burstow: The Palliative Care Funding Review, which is independent of Government, is taking forward work to review payment systems to support palliative care, including exploring options for per-patient funding.

In the second phase of its work, the review has asked for views on which core components of dedicated palliative care, including spiritual care, should be funded, wholly or partly, by the national health service as a statutory responsibility and which by society. This consultation ended on 30 March.

Ministers will consider the recommendations of the review when they receive its final report, which is expected this summer.

Prostate Cancer

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to promote Prostate Cancer Awareness Month; and if he will make a statement; [50298]

(2) what steps the NHS is taking to improve men's awareness of prostate cancer; and if he will make a statement. [50299]

Paul Burstow: Prostate cancer awareness month is organised and promoted by the Prostate Cancer Charity. The Department works closely with the charity through the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group (PCAG).

"Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" published on 12 January, recognised that more could be done to raise awareness of prostate cancer. A copy has already been placed in the Library. We will be working with PCAG to see how we can raise awareness of prostate cancer by increasing access to the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP). Through the PCRMP, men with no symptoms of the disease receive information about prostate cancer, and advice about the pros and cons of having a prostate cancer specific antigen test.

Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which regulations have been identified for *(a)* adoption and *(b)* revocation by his Department under the Government's one-in, one-out policy between May 2010 and May 2015. [50035]

Mr Simon Burns: The coalition Government policy of one-in one-out was introduced from 1 October 2010 and seeks to identify all regulations that have a direct impact on private sector and civil society organisations and assess the impact in cost and benefit terms.

The following regulations have been identified for adoption and revocation by the Department under the Government's one-in, one-out policy between October 2010 and May 2015. The Department will continue as part of the flow of regulation, to identify additional outs, for the one-in, one-out regulatory management system.

Adoption

Title of Measure	*In*	*In force date*
Health Act 2009 Extending Local Government Ombudsman remit to self-funded adult social care providers	In	October 2010
Care Quality Commission new system of regulating the sector through registration	In	October 2010
The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010	In	January 2011
The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2010	In	January 2011
Regulation of Sunbeds 2010	In	April 2011
Amendments to the Primary Medical Services (Electronic Prescription Service Authorisation) Directions 2008	In	April 2011
IR(ME)R Amendment Regulations 2011	In	April 2011
Prohibition on the sale of tobacco from vending machines	In	October 2011
Prohibition of the display of tobacco at point of sale	In	April 2012/April 2015

Revocation

Title of Measure	*Out*	*In force date*
Care Standards Act 2001 and associated National Minimum Standards	Out	October 2010
Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England) Regulations 2001	Out	October 2010

Ritalin: Children

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children in households receiving working-age benefits have been prescribed Ritalin in each year from 1997 to 2010; [51038]

(2) how many children were prescribed Ritalin to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each year from 1997 to 2010. [51039]

Anne Milton: The Information Centre Prescribing Team has advised that this information is not available for children's prescriptions. They have however provided information on the numbers of all Ritalin prescriptions dispensed in the community as follows:

Ritalin is a branded version of the drug Methylphenidate Hydrochloride. The following table shows the total number of items dispensed for Methylphenidate Hydrochloride overall (including Ritalin) and for Ritalin separately for individuals of all ages.

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride prescriptions dispensed in the community in England

Thousand

	Prescription items	
	Methylphenidate Hydrochloride	*Of which: Ritalin*
1997	92.1	92.1
1998	126.6	126.6
1999	158.0	157.9
2000	186.2	181.3
2001	208.5	180.6
2002	254.0	161.8
2003	314.5	124.5
2004	359.1	67.8
2005	389.2	30.7
2006	456.9	26.5
2007	535.3	25.5
2008	573.4	22.8
2009	610.2	20.2

Notes:

1. *Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) Data*

Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

2. Prescribers are general practitioners, hospital doctors, dentists and non-medical prescribers such as nurses and pharmacists.

3. *Prescription Items*

Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

4. *British National Formulary Classifications*

The PCA system uses the therapeutic classifications defined in the BNF. No information on why a drug is prescribed is available and since drugs can be prescribed to treat more than one condition it is impossible to separate the different conditions that a drug was prescribed for.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis

Social Services

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for improvement of the social care system. [50510]

Paul Burstow: "A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens" published on 16 November 2010, set the context for the future direction of adult social care in England. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

It said that services should be more personalised, with personal budgets, preferably as a direct payment, provided to all eligible people, by April 2003. Services should be more focused on prevention, delivering the best outcomes for people.

We know that urgent reform of the social care funding system is needed to provide much more control to individuals and their carers, and to reduce the insecurity that they and their families face.

That is why we have established an independent commission to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system for adult social care in England.

The Commission on the Funding of Care and Support is due to report in July. More information about the commission's work can be found online at:

www.dilnotcommission.dh.gov.uk

It is our intention to bring together the conclusions of the Law Commission and the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support into a White Paper by the end of the year, with subsequent legislation establishing a sustainable legal and financial framework for care and support.

Stroke: Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of GP-led commissioning on waiting times to access post-stroke therapy services. [50420]

Mr Simon Burns: The move to general practitioner-led commissioning will improve the fit between service provision and patients' needs. This should be reflected in a better balance in the provision of acute and post-acute care.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of GP-led commissioning on the development of stroke care networks. [50421]

Mr Simon Burns: The stroke clinical networks and the central team that supports them continue to be funded in 2011-12. During 2011-12 consideration is being given to where the functions undertaken by these networks will best fit into the new arrangements.

Visual Impairment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to achieve the World Health Organisation standard of eliminating avoidable blindness by 2020. [50652]

Mr Simon Burns: In the United Kingdom, we support the aim of eliminating avoidable sight loss by 2020.

Effective screening is already in place for diabetic retinopathy. Between December 2009 and December 2010, 98.1% of people with diabetes were offered screening for diabetic retinopathy.

The national health service has invested significant resources in improving cataract services.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published technology appraisal guidance on the use of Lucentis for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration and has recommended its use as a clinically and cost-effective use of NHS resources for patients meeting specific clinical criteria. Primary care trusts are legally required to make funding available for Lucentis in line with NICE's guidance.

Free sight tests are available to people aged 60 and over and other disadvantaged groups. The uptake of NHS sight tests is steadily rising.

We are looking to improve clinical outcomes further through changes being proposed by the Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arts: Research

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's strategic research priorities are in respect of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. [50925]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not have any strategic research priorities in respect of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The AHRC's delivery plan, published in December 2010, was agreed in discussion with the Department. This sets out their strategic research priority areas. A copy of the delivery plan is available on the AHRC website at:

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/About/Policy/Documents/DeliveryPlan2011.pdf

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of which Arts and Humanities Research Council projects his Department has allocated funding since May 2010. [50926]

Mr Willetts: The Department provides funding to the research councils. It is for the research councils, rather than Government, to allocate funds to individual projects.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review the implementation of the Agency Worker Regulations and their effect on labour market flexibility one year after they enter into force. [49384]

Mr Davey: A review of the Agency Workers Directive will be carried out by the European Commission, in consultation with member states and social partners at Community level, by 5 December 2013. In addition this Department will be regularly monitoring the impact of the Agency Workers Regulations in the UK and will have conducted a Post-Implementation Review by December 2013. The main source of information for the formal evaluation and ongoing monitoring is likely to be the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey but other surveys and research may also be relevant carried out by government or other bodies.

European Regional Development Fund: Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role local enterprise partnerships will play in applications for funding from the European Regional Development Fund. [50229]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

All ERDF programmes are overseen by programme monitoring committees. These committees provide strategic leadership and management for ERDF programmes, and the detailed approval of projects is typically undertaken by a range of appointed sub-committees.

Programme monitoring committees will transition to local management committees from 1 July 2011, to ensure that ERDF governance arrangements reflect the coalition Government's Localism agenda. There will be representation from local enterprise partnerships on local management committees.

Heat Pumps

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ask the United Kingdom Accreditation Service to accredit the leakage rates of fluorocarbons from heat pumps supplied by the heat pump industry. [50291]

Mr Willetts: I am sure that the United Kingdom Accreditation Service would be happy to consider accrediting a laboratory, inspection body or certification body if one came forward to apply for accreditation in respect of the conformity assessment of heat pumps.

Higher Education

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to amend the rules governing the validation of higher education qualifications in order to allow more organisations to validate such qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [50436]

Mr Willetts: Higher education institutions with degree awarding powers (DAPs) are responsible for awarding their own degrees and other higher education qualifications, and can validate qualifications delivered by other providers without DAPs. As I have made clear in recent public speeches, the Government are committed to opening up the market for the delivery of higher education to new and alternative providers. For example, we have said that we will allow non-teaching bodies to offer external degrees. We will set out our proposals in more detail in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase the proportion of higher education courses delivered in further education colleges. [50437]

Mr Willetts: The Government see an important role for further education colleges delivering higher education courses in a reformed HE system. The Government's funding reforms, including the extension of loans to part-time students and enabling student choice to drive higher education funding, should benefit further education colleges which can offer an attractive proposition to prospective students.

The forthcoming Higher Education White Paper will set out reforms to help higher education become more dynamic and responsive to demand. This includes making it easier for a more diverse range of providers, including further education colleges, to compete and allowing non-teaching bodies to apply to offer external degrees, giving further education colleges more choice in their provision of degree courses.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the proportion of students graduating from (i) Oxford and (ii) Cambridge University who attended (A) independent, (B) state, (C) grammar and (D) comprehensive schools and obtained first class honours degrees in the last 20 years. [49468]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not commissioned any analysis of its own on the proportion of graduates from Oxford and Cambridge by school type achieving first class degrees.

I am aware of research published in the *British Educational Research Journal*, 35.5, (pp781-807 2009) by Tom Ogg, Anna Zimdars and Anthony Heath on the effects of Schooling on degree performance: a comparison of the predictive validity of aptitude testing and secondary school grades at Oxford university. This article examined the cause of school type effects upon gaining a first class degree at Oxford university whereby for a given level of secondary school performance, private school students perform less well at degree level.

Figures on the school background of high achieving students at Oxford and Cambridge universities can be secured from the HESA Information Service

www.hesa.ac.uk

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of undergraduate places that will be available at universities in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; what recent discussions he has had with universities about university places; and if he will make a statement. [50281]

Mr Willetts: We expect student numbers in England to remain broadly constant over the spending review period.

I have regular discussions with higher education institutions and their representative bodies about developments in Government policy in their area including on student numbers. We will bring forward proposals for a more flexible and responsive way of controlling student numbers in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what responsibilities the Director of Fair Access has to assess a higher education institution's access agreement with reference to specific courses deemed most likely to encourage social mobility. [50855]

Mr Willetts: Our guidance to the Director of Fair Access, published on 10February, said that:

> "... evidence has shown that certain courses, particularly those that lead to professional careers, tend to offer the greatest financial benefit to students. Securing fair access to these courses is an important component of promoting greater social mobility. We hope that institutions will make particular reference to these courses in their Access Agreements, and may wish to target their outreach and other activities, such as foundation years, to where they can have greatest impact on access and social mobility."

Legislation requires the Director to "have regard to" the guidance issued to him by the Secretary of State. Assessment of access agreements is a matter for the Director of Fair Access and he has issued his own guidance to institutions consistent with that from Government.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to higher education authorities about invitations to speakers with a history of promoting anti-Semitism to speak on campuses; and if he will make a statement. [50269]

Mr Willetts: Decisions about external speakers must rest with universities themselves. In this area universities are bound by the law both in protecting freedom of speech on campus, even if that free expression is controversial, and protecting students and staff against harassment or violence. The Government would expect institutions to tackle these issues vigorously when they arise and they have access to guidance from both Government and the sector itself on promoting good campus relations, which draw out the considerations institutions need to give to free expression on campus and to addressing illegal behaviour. Institutions also take advice about external speakers from their local police forces when needed. The Department is active in the wider Government review of the Prevent Strategy which is considering approaches to tackling extremism and supporting integration in universities and elsewhere.

There is no place for racism of any form, such as anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of England was covered by a local enterprise partnership on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what steps he is taking to support such partnerships in increasing economic growth and job creation in their areas. [50566]

Mr Prisk: To date 32 partnerships have been approved. These represent:

1.8 million or 90% of all businesses (active enterprises) in England

21 million employees (employee jobs figures) or 91 % of all employees in England and;

A population of 47 million or 90% of England's population.

The Government will work with local enterprise partnerships to ensure that activities which are nationally led are dovetailed as closely as possible with locally-led delivery. These include policies for promoting trade and securing inward investment; investing in research and development and innovation; nurturing high growth sectors; ensuring business improvement for businesses with high growth potential; and increasing access to venture capital.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to support British manufacturing industry; what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the Confederation of British Industry on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [50310]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting manufacturing by creating the economic stability that will give businesses the confidence they need to plan and invest. We are doing this by creating a more supportive tax environment, cutting through red tape and unnecessary regulation, increasing access to finance, and focusing on training and apprenticeships. Manufacturers will also benefit from a package of measures announced as part of Budget 2011 to promote growth in manufacturing, such as changes to capital allowances, helping firms to commercialise technology, developing new degree-equivalent higher level apprenticeships, and increased funding for the Green Investment Bank.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers and officials have regular meetings with the Confederation of British Industry including bilaterals and roundtables at which numerous issues are discussed, including manufacturing.

Members: Correspondence

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Thurrock of 8 December 2010 on strengthening the integrity of drug and alcohol testing in the workplace. [41393]

Mr Prisk: I replied to the letter from my hon. Friend on 2 March 2011.

Mercosur: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with *(a)* the European Commission, *(b)* Members of the European Parliament and *(c)* his EU counterparts the environmental and social effects of the proposed EU free trade agreement with Mercosur. [50027]

Mr Davey: The UK supports the inclusion of sustainable development chapters, covering environmental and social issues, in all free trade agreements. Negotiations with Mercosur on sustainable development have not begun. Once they do, the UK will discuss environmental and social issues with the European Commission, EU counterparts and Members of the European Parliament.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of implementation of the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement on future levels of illegal logging in the Amazon. [50133]

Mr Davey: The European Commission's sustainability impact assessment, available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/analysis/sustainability-impact-assessments/assessments/#study-10

assesses that the free trade agreement (FTA) will have a limited effect on the trade of timber and timber products between Mercosur and the EU, but also notes that illegal logging could increase if not accompanied by appropriate measures. For this reason, the UK will encourage the European Commission to use the FTA to strengthen co-operation with Mercosur on forest law enforcement and governance.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has made at EU level on the need for a European Code of Conduct to be adopted by *(a)* car manufacturers and *(b)* franchised dealers under the Block Exemption Regulation; and if he will make a statement. [50376]

Mr Prisk: I have made no representations at European level on this issue.

Overseas Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many children of Turkish workers who have received help with tuition fees since 2006 have not made scheduled repayments in each of the last five years; [49088]

(2) how many students from other EU member states have received living cost support from the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years; [49089]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 9 March, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on overseas students: loans, how many Swiss national students did not make a scheduled student loan repayment in each of the last five years; [49090]

(4) how much the Student Loans Company is owed in arrears by students from *(a)* EEA countries, *(b)* Switzerland and *(c)* Turkey; [49092]

(5) how much is owed by former students from EEA countries to the Student Loans Company *(a)* in total and *(b)* arising from repayments due but not made in each year since 2007. [49117]

Mr Willetts: Information about awards of tuition fee and maintenance loans and about repayments which separately identifies children of Turkish workers, Swiss national students or students from the European economic area (EEA) is not readily available in the format requested.

Generally, living cost support is not available to those students coming from the European Union to study in England. An exception is made for individuals who are exercising their rights under EC law to work in the UK, specified family members of those individuals, EC nationals who have lived in the UK and islands for three years prior to the start of the course, children of Swiss nationals and children of Turkish workers in the UK. Individuals must satisfy certain residency criteria before being considered eligible for the package of maintenance support.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on overseas students: loans, what procedures are in place to recoup the outstanding debt of those former students from European Economic Area countries who are in arrears. [49417]

Mr Willetts: Student loans in England are only available to those who meet the relevant residence requirements. The Student Loans Company (SLC) applies the same procedures to all borrowers who move overseas after leaving their course.

When borrowers move abroad, whether temporarily or because they live in another country, they must give the SLC information about their location and earnings. The SLC will determine whether the borrower should be making repayments and, if so, gives them a monthly repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan. The SLC will convert their income into pounds sterling and will tell the borrower the amount they will need to pay each month.

Where borrowers move overseas and do not notify the SLC, they may be charged penalties which will be added to the outstanding loan amount. They may also have to pay the costs of any trace agents employed by the SLC. In some circumstances, they may have to repay the full outstanding amount in a single payment.

Effective collection of student loans across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgements in UK courts which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. Borrowers who choose to disregard their obligation will be pursued by the SLC and, where appropriate, court orders will be sought.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the chief executive of each regional development agency (RDA) on their proposals for the disposal of assets held by each such RDA. [50901]

Mr Prisk: The Department is working closely with the RDAs. Officials have regular contact with chief executives, and their staff, to discuss issues including their proposals for the disposal of assets. RDAs are also represented on the assets and liabilities working group that has been established to consider general policy issues arising from asset disposal and which developed the principles to guide the disposal of assets:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/economic-development/docs/s/11-727-statement-rda-assets-and-liabilities.pdf

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in the (A) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (B) HM Treasury on the options for the disposal of the assets owned by the regional development agencies; and on what dates such meetings took place. [50905]

Mr Prisk: The Department is working closely with Department for Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury. Officials have regular contact with these Departments to discuss issues including RDA proposals for the disposal of assets.

HM Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government are also represented on the assets and liabilities working group that has been established to consider general policy issues arising from asset disposal.

Research: Finance

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to clarify the Haldane principle in relation to academic research. [50924]

Mr Willetts: A clarification of the Haldane principle was published alongside the science and research funding allocations on 20 December 2010, available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/wmstext/101220m0001.htm

This came after consultation with senior figures in the science and research community.

Small Businesses: Recruitment

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small businesses to employ staff. [50538]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Southend West (Mr Amess) on 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 482W.

Students: Loans

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of women studying part-time of his decision that the liability to repay student loans commences prior to the completion of the course; [51009]

(2) for what reasons he has determined that part-time students should be liable to begin repaying their student loans before they have completed their course. [51010]

Mr Willetts: Part-time students will become liable to repay from the April following the third anniversary of the start date of their course. This date has been chosen as it is consistent with the repayment date that will typically apply to former full-time students. At that point the interest that will accrue on the loan will be dependent on income of the borrower, rather than being set at the retail price index (RPI) + 3%; those earning less than £21,000 will then accrue interest at the rate of RPI. But no one is expected to repay until they earn more than £21,000.

This balances the needs of the student with those of the taxpayer, as it secures repayments from part-time students who earn more than £21,000 at the earliest reasonable opportunity while also affording protection to low-earning graduates.

Because the earnings threshold at which repayments start will be raised to £21,000, low earners, including many part-time workers, will be more likely to fall below this higher threshold. The new system will particularly benefit those who take time out to have a family and the lowest earners, both men and women, will pay less under the new system, than they would currently.

EDUCATION

Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of implementing the presumption that all new schools will open as academies. [37963]

Mr Gibb: There will be no overall additional cost to the public purse. Where local authorities have identified the need for a new school they must provide the site and any associated capital.

Children in Care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average length of placement for looked after children was in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [48499]

Tim Loughton: The information requested, is shown in the following table.

The average has been calculated as the mean length of each placement for those children who were looked after at some point during the year. Where a placement started before the beginning of the year, the complete length of that placement has been counted. Where a placement started during the year and continued beyond the end of the year, the length of the placement has only been calculated to the 31 March of that year.

Average length of placements for children looked after during the year ending 31 March, by local authority[1]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

			Days
	2008	2009	2010
England	510	512	506
North East	494	482	464
Darlington	449	468	447
Durham	416	359	335
Gateshead	539	549	502
Hartlepool	370	382	412
Middlesbrough	477	439	455
Newcastle upon Tyne	575	527	514
North Tyneside	428	425	401
Northumberland	527	643	673
Redcar and Cleveland	465	489	395
South Tyneside	496	472	450
Stockton-on-Tees	413	425	406
Sunderland	630	612	625
North West	569	573	562
Blackburn with Darwen	560	616	581
Blackpool	458	420	411
Bolton	433	410	379
Bury	599	570	524
Cheshire[2]	481	469	—
Cheshire East[2]	—	—	433
Cheshire West and Chester[2]	—	—	440
Cumbria	594	636	564
Halton	619	683	766
Knowsley	529	620	622
Lancashire	553	569	571
Liverpool	722	624	614
Manchester	590	628	619
Oldham	535	571	583
Rochdale	479	505	523
Salford	685	775	676
Sefton	517	508	470
St Helens	597	605	642
Stockport	582	627	601
Tameside	562	558	606
Trafford	462	521	607

Average length of placements for children looked after during the year ending 31 March, by local authority[1]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

			Days
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Warrington	515	465	448
Wigan	566	524	558
Wirral	627	627	677
Yorkshire and the Humber	531	556	567
Barnsley	655	576	671
Bradford	600	652	728
Calderdale	468	457	615
Doncaster	409	385	400
East Riding of Yorkshire	520	568	516
Kingston upon Hull, City of	482	530	501
Kirklees	442	464	479
Leeds	661	680	641
North East Lincolnshire	422	518	518
North Lincolnshire	497	491	454
North Yorkshire	597	659	640
Rotherham	324	412	459
Sheffield	490	534	527
Wakefield	688	637	621
York	397	390	450
East Midlands	488	493	479
Derby	589	580	575
Derbyshire	456	476	467
Leicester	580	548	491
Leicestershire	433	425	430
Lincolnshire	540	597	595
Northamptonshire	394	359	391
Nottingham	463	503	462
Nottinghamshire	509	524	485
Rutland	356	466	334
West Midlands	510	515	511
Birmingham	528	527	542
Coventry	514	491	524
Dudley	544	588	571
Herefordshire	692	650	674
Sandwell	611	637	625
Shropshire	379	415	421
Solihull	414	357	382
Staffordshire	460	460	446
Stoke-on-Trent	417	464	431
Telford and Wrekin	474	512	492
Walsall	592	627	636
Warwickshire	442	456	457
Wolverhampton	557	589	487
Worcestershire	543	507	481
East of England	547	555	553
Bedfordshire[2]	766	661	—
Bedford Borough[2]	—	—	582
Central Bedfordshire[2]	—	—	595
Cambridgeshire	510	500	548
Essex	481	529	553
Hertfordshire	619	552	486
Luton	547	566	653
Norfolk	567	575	583
Peterborough	554	614	636
Southend-on-Sea	547	624	612
Suffolk	527	531	535
Thurrock	447	521	473

Average length of placements for children looked after during the year ending 31 March, by local authority[1]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

			Days
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
London	473	469	466
Inner London	510	504	493
Camden	534	519	539
City Of London	489	484	467
Hackney	631	635	758
Hammersmith and Fulham	582	572	542
Haringey	456	442	419
Islington	560	599	594
Kensington and Chelsea	393	387	352
Lambeth	486	518	507
Lewisham	502	467	438
Newham	513	487	483
Southwark	550	534	499
Tower Hamlets	416	420	415
Wandsworth	531	526	554
Westminster	461	489	479
Outer London	443	441	444
Barking and Dagenham	397	302	357
Barnet	614	575	577
Bexley	436	448	474
Brent	400	391	442
Bromley	597	567	477
Croydon	384	428	425
Ealing	472	487	452
Enfield	499	484	434
Greenwich	430	465	424
Harrow	476	389	395
Havering	446	439	428
Hillingdon	431	471	551
Hounslow	458	482	460
Kingston upon Thames	433	381	415
Merton	406	346	372
Redbridge	337	347	395
Richmond upon Thames	527	515	445
Sutton	403	371	360
Waltham Forest	498	490	488
South East	491	478	472
Bracknell Forest	370	410	324
Brighton and Hove	451	409	410
Buckinghamshire	645	556	497
East Sussex	652	638	622
Hampshire	445	457	472
Isle of Wight	535	570	574
Kent	452	414	437
Medway Towns	594	626	566
Milton Keynes	405	432	364
Oxfordshire	496	537	494
Portsmouth	626	570	552
Reading	442	485	460
Slough	447	342	328
Southampton	368	346	427
Surrey	507	485	496
West Berkshire	694	711	573
West Sussex	520	526	480
Windsor and Maidenhead	453	381	317
Wokingham	393	416	482

Average length of placements for children looked after during the year ending 31 March, by local authority[1]. Years ending 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

			Days
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
South West	467	462	457
Bath and North East Somerset	501	581	551
Bournemouth	488	493	520
Bristol, City of	487	525	563
Cornwall	397	327	333
Devon	498	494	411
Dorset	517	543	524
Gloucestershire	606	459	535
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
North Somerset	410	397	413
Plymouth	465	512	440
Poole	545	546	504
Somerset	351	357	363
South Gloucestershire	484	469	417
Swindon	393	467	550
Torbay	409	442	479
Wiltshire	509	502	470

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[2] In 2009, Cheshire local authority split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford borough and Central Bedfordshire.

Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Disability

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his Department's announcement of 11 December 2010 on short breaks for disabled children, whether the funding proposed for short breaks for families with disabled children in England will have a consequential effect on the funding for services for families with disabled children living in Scotland. [49486]

Sarah Teather: Using the Barnett formula, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have received a population-based proportion of the education budget and are now able to decide what services they provide in terms of short breaks.

Children: Poverty

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions his Department has had with the End Child Poverty coalition on the proposed pupil premium. [21474]

Sarah Teather: I know of no discussions between my Department and the End Child Poverty coalition group specifically on the Pupil Premium.

The coalition is made up of more than 150 organisations and 10 of these responded separately to our consultation on school funding for 2011-12, which set out proposals for the operation of the Pupil Premium. Consultation ended on 18 October and we announced our decisions on 13 December 2010. Details of the funding settlement can found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/settlement2012pupilpremium

Children's Commissioner

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has for the future of the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England; [49889]

(2) what the cost to the public purse of the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England was in each of the last three years. [49890]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* On 6 December 2010, the Government published the report of an independent review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner carried out by John Dunford. In the accompanying written ministerial statement, the Government accepted all of John Dunford's recommendations in principle, notably that a new Office of the Children's Commissioner for England should be established, with a role to promote and protect the rights of children in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A copy of John Dunford's report and the written ministerial statement can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0069886/review-of-the-office-of-%20children's-commissioner-for-england

The Government will consult on detailed proposals in relation to the review, prior to the introduction of draft legislation.

The existing Office of the Children's Commissioner for England has claimed grant in aid (to the nearest £1,000) for each of the last three financial years as follows:

2009/10: £2,670,000
2008/09: £2,907,000
2007/08: £2,663,000

Cookery: Curriculum

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future teaching of cookery in schools. [49695]

Mr Gibb: On 20 January, the Secretary of State for Education announced that we are conducting a review of the National Curriculum at both primary and secondary levels. This review will include consideration of the status of design and technology (including cookery).

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50692]

Tim Loughton: The Department's financial records show that the Department did not make any payments to Lockheed Martin over each of the last 10 years. The Department does not hold any contract information for this company on its central database.

Similarly the public bodies associated with the Department have confirmed that their financial records show that they did not make any payments to Lockheed Martin over each of the last 10 years and do not hold any contract information with this company.

Departmental Flowers

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on flowers in 2009-10. [50571]

Tim Loughton: The Department spent £569.99 on flowers in 2009-10.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies, interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42889]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows:

(a) During the financial year 2010-11 the Department has spent approximately £14,000 on translation services, through a single service provider with whom we have a framework contract. This information has been drawn from our finance system, using information on payments made to the supplier.

To obtain full details behind each of these transactions could be achieved only at disproportionate cost, but information recorded onto the finance system shows translations into Welsh, and translations from Spanish, Russian and Turkish.

(b) To obtain the detailed information from our non-departmental public bodies could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Bodies

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the School Food Trust. [48630]

Sarah Teather: The Government's aim is not abolition of the School Food Trust, but rather that it will cease to be an NDPB while continuing as a company and charity. The Trust is exploring how it might best move to become a community interest company to run alongside the charity. The Department is committed to the Government's ambitions to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria his Department uses to determine the allocation of funding to advice lines operated by his Department. [45386]

Tim Loughton: The decision to fund a service is dependent on whether a contact centre is the most appropriate response mechanism for our target audience (contact centres/help lines rarely just answer calls, but can receive e-mail, SMS, web form or paper responses) and meets the objectives for the work concerned. Therefore the decision to use a contact centre would be taken by policy and communications professionals based on the audience and desired objectives. Regardless of the model chosen, each service records appropriate data using a performance management framework (PMF) to ensure efficient use of funds (costs per call handled or other mechanism used, utility, outcomes etc.).

For Government funded contact centres the costs involved are largely variable (for instance depending on the number of calls received) and are worked out based on the projected demand for a service. There is also some element of fixed cost. Likely demand is calculated by looking at existing levels of demand and adding a contingency for any additional demand likely to be generated by increased marketing activity. For new services where we have no historical data or where we need to estimate additional demand, predictions will be made based on activity levels for similar projects.

Funding for these services will therefore vary by year based on demand levels and any efficiency savings gained. This ensures value for money.

However for help lines outside of COI alternative costing models exist which may be based on a fixed price which can be independent of demand (and this can often lead to insufficient or too much capacity and an inflexibility) or through grants (if the service is provided by the 3rd sector—which can also lead to similar inflexibility). In-house services will most likely have a fixed budget but may well request more resource if a period of intense demand is expected.

Departmental Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on international travel in the financial year 2009-10. [50561]

Tim Loughton: The total amount spent on international travel in financial year 2009-10 was £42,639. The provisional comparative figure for 2010-11 is £24,728.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether an announcement will be made before 31 March 2011 on the amount of funding his Department expects to make available in the Learner Support fund for 16 to 19 year olds in 2011-12; what rules govern the operation of the fund; and whether college principals and school heads will have complete discretion as to how this fund is used. [49595]

Mr Gibb: On 28 March we announced a new £180 million bursary scheme which, from September 2011, will be targeted towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16, together with transitional arrangements to help some of those who are presently in receipt of EMA. We are currently consulting on our proposals.

Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children of each ethnicity achieved A* to C grades in English, mathematics, one language, two sciences and either history or geography in each year since 2008. [47270]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Achievements at GCSE for pupils[1] at the end of Key Stage 4 by ethnicity, years: 2007/08 to 2009/10 (amended)[2], coverage: England, maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)

	Percentage of pupils achieving A* -C grades in:								
	English[3]			Mathematics			Language[4]		
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10[P]	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10[P]	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10[P]
White	60.1	61.9	66.2	56.0	58.3	62.2	26.2	27.0	26.9
White British	60.2	62.2	66.5	56.0	58.3	62.3	25.5	26.1	26.0
Irish	67.	69.2	74.3	62.8	63.	69.3	33.8	31.6	35.6
Traveller of Irish Heritage[7]	15.6	13.2	29.3	13.8	18.2	24.4	3.7	5.0	3.3
Gypsy/Roma[7]	14.4	15.0	16.5	11.4	12.6	13.5	4.8	4.5	4.9
Any Other White Background	55.5	56.0	60.4	56.5	59.0	61.2	48.5	50.5	48.7
Mixed	61.2	64.2	68.0	53.9	58.2	61.9	28.7	29.8	30.6
White and Black Caribbean	53.5	57.1	61.8	44.6	49.2	52.4	18.5	18.9	19.3
White and Black African	61.5	63.7	68.8	53.4	58.1	62.7	30.6	31.7	33.0
White and Asian	70.6	73.2	75.5	64.5	69.1	72.6	37.9	39.2	39.4
Any Other Mixed Background	64.2	66.9	70.0	58.3	61.7	65.3	34.1	35.8	36.4
Asian	60.4	62.5	67.5	60.5	62.6	66.7	35.4	35.6	34.8
Indian	73.5	75.3	79.5	73.2	74.9	7B.3	44.0	45.5	44.6
Pakistani	51.0	53.7	60.3	49.5	52.4	57.5	29.3	28.6	28.0
Bangladeshi	55.9	59.3	64.6	54.8	57.1	63.0	27.7	28.3	26.0
Any Other Asian Background	59.0	60.5	64.0	65.6	68.1	69.9	39.5	39.6	41.0
Black	54.4	57.8	62.7	49.6	53.3	57.1	23.4	24.4	24.3
Black Caribbean	52.7	54.7	59.9	43.9	47.5	50.7	16.0	16.7	17.3
Black African	55.6	60.1	65.0	53.7	57.7	61.6	28.5	29.1	2B.2
Any Other Black Background	53.9	55.7	59.9	47.7	49.8	53.5	22.6	24.8	26.1
Chinese	72.3	74.6	77.4	87.2	.867	90.9	65.1	67.1	68.5
Any Other Ethnic Group	52.4	54.3	60.1	56.9	58.5	62.8	48.1	48.6	46.8
Unclassified[8]	55.7	60.4	64.3	51.2	57.7	60.3	26.0	29.3	29.3
All pupils	59.8	61.8	66.2	56.1	58.5	62.4	27.1	28.0	27.9

	Percentage of pupils achieving A* -C grades in:					
	At least two sciences[5]			Either History or Geography		
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10[P]	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10[P]
White	46.0	46.4	47.7	32.0	32.1	32.6
White British	46.1	46.5	47.9	32.0	32.2	32.7
Irish	52.	51.9	56.5	42.1	41.7	45.9
Traveller of Irish Heritage[7]	8.3	9.9	13.6	4.6	5.0	8.9
Gypsy/Roma[7]	6.6	6.8	6.4	4.1	4.7	3.4
Any Other White Background	42.7	42.6	43.3	30.4	29.5	29.4
Mixed	43.8	45.5	46.5	28.3	2S.2	29.8
White and Black Caribbean	35.4	36.8	36.0	20.1	21.5	21.1
White and Black African	43.3	44.8	45.8	28.0	28.1	23.0
White and Asian	53.9	56.5	56.7	38.2	40.3	39.4
Any Other Mixed Background	47.6	48.9	50.7	31.8	31.5	33.7
Asian	46.6	48.1	49.6	29.8	30.1	29.9
Indian	60.3	61.5	64.4	40.0	41.2	40.5
Pakistani	36.4	38.6	39.3	22.8	23.0	23.5
Bangladeshi	37.9	40.9	43.3	22.4	22.8	24.1
Any Other Asian Background	50.6	50.8	51.4	31.7	31.7	30.5
Black	35.1	37.3	37.9	20.9	21.9	22.0
Black Caribbean	31.8	32.4	32.6	17.0	17.5	17.8
Black African	37.8	40.9	41.6	23.9	25.1	25.0
Any Other Black Background	33.1	34.9	35.1	18.7	19.7	19.8
Chinese	69.0	69.7	70.9	46.3	45.1	46.5
Any Other Ethnic Group	40.8	41.5	43.4	25.1	25.0	24.8
Unclassified[8]	41.3	45.7	45.3	29.0	32.2	32.2

	Percentage of pupils achieving A -C grades in:*					
	At least two sciences[5]			*Either History or Geography*		
	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*[6]	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*[6]
All pupils	45.5	46.1	47.4	31.2	31.5	31.8

[1] Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in each academic year.

[2] 2007/08 and 2008/09 figures are based on final data. 2009/10 figures are amended.

[3] Highest grade achieved in English, English Studies or English Language.

[4] Covers the following GCSE languages: French, German, Spanish, Danish, Dutch. Italian, Modem Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian.

[5] The two sciences can be either: i. Double science GCSE or ii. GCSE Science (Core or Applied) plus GCSE Additional Science or Applied Additional Science or GCSE Land and Environment or iii. At least two of the following subjects: Physics GCSE, Chemistry GCSE and Biological Science GCSE.

[6] In 2010 iGCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

[7] Due to small numbers of pupils from those ethnic groups, small changes may not be significant and year-on-year comparisons should be treated with caution.

[8] Includes pupils for whom ethnicity or first language was not obtained, refused or could not be determined.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Education Maintenance Allowance: Medway

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children received education maintenance allowance in the *(a)* Medway council and *(b)* Tonbridge and Malling borough council area in the latest period for which figures are available. [50045]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education and manage the Capita contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Chatham and Aylesford with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 30 March 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ50045 that asked:

"How many children received education maintenance allowance in the (a) Medway Council and (b) Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council area in the latest period for which figures are available."

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available for upper tier local authorities but not by constituency, local authority ward or council level.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The table below shows local authority take-up as at 28 February 2011.

	Take-up
Medway	3,213
Kent	15,270

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

English Baccalaureate

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultation he undertook with schools prior to introducing the English Baccalaureate into performance tables. [34608]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* We announced our intention to introduce the English Baccalaureate in the Schools White Paper in November and invited schools to submit their comments by the end of the year. We have included the English Baccalaureate measure in the performance tables to make information about schools' performance more widely available in line with the coalition Government's commitment to improve transparency. Our aim is to provide parents with more information on schools and, in the process, stimulate debate on what schools should be teaching. We have not set any targets for the English Baccalaureate and are not using it as an accountability measure.

Free School Meals

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children received free school meals in each ward in the *(a)* Medway council and *(b)* Tonbridge and Malling borough council area in the latest period for which figures are available. [50043]

Mr Gibb: Information about the number of resident school pupils eligible for free school meals in each ward in Medway and Tonbridge and Malling is provided in the following table.

Number and percentage of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2] in each ward[3] in (a) Medway and (b) Tonbridge and Malling in January 2010

	Resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2]	
	Number	*Percentage*
Medway	5,030	13.4
Chatham Central	550	21.5
Cuxton and Halling	40	4.6
Gillingham North	660	24.9
Gillingham South	440	17.8
Hempstead and Wigmore	20	1.7
Lordswood and Capstone	160	11.8
Luton and Wayfield	440	20.4
Peninsula	160	8.5
Princes Park	230	13.4
Rainham Central	90	5.1
Rainham North	150	13.3
Rainham South	180	9.2
River	110	11.8
Rochester East	230	16.8
Rochester South and Horsted	110	6.2
Rochester West	140	12.8
Strood North	250	11.8
Strood Rural	180	8.6
Strood South	390	17.1
Twydall	290	15
Walderslade	150	10.6

Number and percentage of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2] in each ward[3] in (a) Medway and (b) Tonbridge and Malling in January 2010

	Resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2]	
	Number	Percentage
Watling	100	7.2
Tonbridge and Malling	1,550	9.5
Aylesford	70	10
Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade	10	1.4
Borough Green and Long Mill	50	5.7
Burham, Eccles and Wouldham	60	9.8
Cage Green	50	8.4
Castle	20	3.2
Ditton	60	8.3
Downs	20	5.4
East Malling	210	26.5
East Peckham and Golden Green	30	6.7
Hadlow, Mereworth and West Peckham	90	16.2
Higham	70	7.5
Hildenborough	30	4.2
Ightham	10	2.2
Judd	60	8.4
Kings Hill	70	5
Larkfield North	30	5.7
Larkfield South	60	9.6
Medway	80	13.2
Snodland East	130	20
Snodland West	70	9.9
Trench	140	24.1
Vauxhall	60	9.1
Wateringbury	10	1.6
West Malling and Leybourne	40	5.9
Wrotham	40	17.3

[1] Includes full-time and part-time pupils, including boarders, who are sole or dual registrations, attending maintained nursery, primary, middle deemed primary, secondary and middle deemed secondary schools. City technology colleges, academies and all special schools.

[2] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[3] Census area statistic (CAS) wards.

Source:

School Census (Final).

Free School Meals: Pendle Borough Council

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children received free school meals in each ward in the Pendle borough council area in the last year for which figures are available. [50967]

Mr Gibb: Information about the number of resident school pupils eligible for free school meals in each ward in Pendle is provided in the following table.

Number and percentage of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2] in each ward[3] in Pendle in January 2010

	Number of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2, 4]	Percentage of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals[2]
Pendle	2,390	19.0
Barrowford	50	8.6
Blacko and Higherford	[5]—	[5]—
Boulsworth	30	5.0
Bradley	330	28.4
Brierfield	190	24.1
Clover Hill	200	25.5
Coates	90	11.6
Craven	70	10.9
Earby	100	12.6
Foulridge	10	4.5
Higham and Pendleside	[5]—	[5]—
Horsfield	140	23.2
Marsden	90	18.6
Old Laund Booth	10	4.6
Reedley	120	14.6
Southfield	240	26.6
Vivary Bridge	210	23.7
Walverden	150	22.0
Waterside	200	27.7
Whitefield	170	22.9

[1] Includes full time and part time pupils, including boarders, who are sole or dual registrations, attending maintained nursery, primary, middle deemed primary, secondary and middle deemed secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies and al special schools.

[2] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

[3] Census Area Statistic (CAS) Wards.

[4] Numbers in this table have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[5] Figures suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Source:

School Census (Final)

Further Education: Free School Meals

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to ensure 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time education in a further education or sixth form college have access to a free lunch. [37176]

Mr Gibb: Free school meals are currently available to pupils in a school sixth form, including those who are 19 or over, as long as they began their course of study before attaining the age of 18.

The Department has registered concern that similar funding is not available for pupils studying in further education or sixth form colleges but currently has no plans to extend free school meal eligibility.

GCSE

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children achieved five or more A* to C GCSEs in each year since 1997, where those GCSEs included *(a)* English language, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* a modern foreign language, *(d)* history or geography and *(e)* a science; and if he will make a statement. [32388]

Mr Gibb: The information available is provided in the following table:

Children who achieved five or more A to C GCSEs where those GCSEs included English language, mathematics, history or geography, a modern foreign language and a science, for the period 2007-10*

	Number
2007	109,532
2008	105,310
2009	105,411
2010	106,108

Figures are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

2010 figures include only full and double award GCSEs and iGCSEs.

Further years can be provided only at disproportionate cost but we are committed to producing a time series for English Baccalaureate in the future. The figures above are not identical to the subjects included in the English Baccalaureate. The 2010 published data can be found at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml

For clarity, the composition of the subject groups comprised is as follows:

English

English
English language

Maths

Mathematics
Mathematics (FSMQ)
Maths (Mechanics)
Mathematics (Pure)
Maths (Discrete)
Mathematics (Applied)
Maths (Statistics)
Maths (Pure and applied)
Maths (Pure and decsn)
Maths (Pure and stats)
Stats and decsn. maths
Maths (Pure and mechs)
Maths (Further)
Additional maths
Mathematical stds.

Science

Biology
Biology: Human
Biology: Social
Biology: Human and Soc
Chemistry
Physics
Science (Core)
Science SA
Science: Additional
Sci: Dual Award A
Env and Land Science
Sci: Dual Award B
Science Double Awd
Sci: Double Awd B
Sci: Biol and Chem
Sci: Biol and Phys
Sci: Chem and Phys
Aeronautics
Sci: Agricultural
Sci: Agric and Hortic
Science: Applied
Science: Astronomy
Botany
Sci: Electronics
Sci: Environmental
Science: Geology
Sci: Horticulture
Science: Physical
Sci: Psychology
Robotics
Science: Rural
Science in Society
Sci for Public Und
Sci: Technology
Science: Zoology
Sci: Meteorology
Engineering Sci
Science: Other

Modern Foreign Language

Welsh language
Welsh (2nd language)
Welsh literature
Irish
Danish
Dutch
French
German
Italian
Modern Greek
Portuguese
Spanish
Arabic
Bengali
Chinese
Gujarati
Hindi
Japanese
Modern Hebrew
Panjabi
Polish
Russian
Turkish
Urdu
Persian
Czech
Swedish
Other languages

Source:

School and College Performance Tables.

GCSE: Free Schools Meals

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children gained five or more A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in each year since GCSEs were introduced; and how many of those were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* ineligible for free school meals in each such year. [50737]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* The figures requested are given in the following table for 2005/06 to 2009/10.

Achievements at GCSE and equivalent for pupils[1] at the end of key stage 4 by free school meal eligibility, 2005/06 to 2009/10[2, 3], England, maintained schools (including academies and CTSs)

		All pupils	*FSM*	*Non-FSM*	*Unclassified*[4]
2005/06					
Number of eligible pupils[1]		594,134	78,087	514,516	1,531
Pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics	Number	261,336	15,320	245,508	508
	Percentage	44.0	19.6	47.7	33.2
2006/07					
Number of eligible pupils[1]		600,659	76,566	521,826	2.267
Pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics	Number	274,823	16,385	257,649	789
	Percentage	45.8	21.4	49.4	34.8
2007/08					
Number of eligible pupils[1]		598,102	74,760	522,304	1,038
Pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics	Number	288,158	17,814	269,933	41
	Percentage	48.2	23.8	51.7	39.6
2008/09					
Number of eligible pupils[1]		578,840	74,419	504,377	44
Pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics	Number	293,443	19,778	273,640	25
	Percentage	50.7	26.6	54.3	56.8
2009/10					
Number of eligible pupils[1]		578,275	77,408	500,811	56
Pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics	Number	316,941	23,937	292,985	19
	Percentage	54.8	30.9	58.5	33.9

[1] Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in each academic year.

[2] Figures for 2005/06 to 2008/09 are based on final data, 2009/10 figures are based on provisional data.

[3] In 2010, iGCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

[4] Includes pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

Source:

National Pupil Database.

"Five GCSEs including English and mathematics" was not recorded on the national pupil database before 2003/04. Figures for 2003/04 and 2004/05 could not be calculated without exceeding disproportionate costs.

History: Education

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the March 2011 Ofsted survey of history in schools in respect of the use in schools of set textbooks. [49940]

Mr Gibb: As part of our review of the national curriculum, which is under way, we will be considering ways in which we can stimulate the market to produce high quality text books and other resources to support the new curriculum. The Government believe, however, that teachers should be free to use their professional judgment when determining which resources they should use in the classroom to meet the needs of their pupils.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 31 January and 21 February 2011 on his constituent Ms K. Evans. [49357]

Tim Loughton: *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Schools (Lord Hill) replied to my hon. Friend on 29 March 2011.

Ofsted: Expenditure

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much Ofsted has spent on its learning and skills division in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that expenditure was on on-site inspections. [17915]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 22 October 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted does not and has not had a learning and skills division. However, the table below sets out:

i) the total cost of learning and skills inspections (operational costs plus overheads) for the financial years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/2010;

ii) the overall operational cost of learning and skills inspections excluding overheads for the financial years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/2010. We are taking operational costs of inspections (direct and indirect costs) to equate here to 'expenditure on site inspections';

iii) the proportion of total costs that is operational cost.

Overall costs as defined above	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
i) (£)	25,327,000	23,623,000	20,736,000
ii) (£)	19,048,000	16,952,000	14,210,000
iii) (%)	75.2	71.8	68.5

This covers inspection of further education colleges, sixth form colleges, work-based learning providers, teacher training providers, adult and community learning providers, next step adult information, advice and guidance providers, Department for Work and Pensions contracted employment providers, 'learndirect' provision and training and education provided by prisons and probation trusts.

Ofsted does not hold comparable data for the previous financial years 2005/06 and 2006/07 since this period preceded the merger between Ofsted and the Adult Learning Inspectorate which transferred the functions of inspecting adult learning, skills and employment to Ofsted from April 2007.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pupil Exclusions: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were excluded permanently from schools in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency in each of the last five years. [49829]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the tables.

Berkshire was reorganised in 1998, so information has been provided for the six local authorities Berkshire was divided into.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2], number of permanent exclusions[3, 4] 2004/05 to 2008/09

	Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 5]					
	2004/05		*2005/06*		*2006/07*	
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[6]*
Bracknell Forest	40	0.28	30	0.19	30	0.17
Windsor and Maidenhead	30	0.17	20	0.10	40	0.20
West Berkshire	30	0.12	50	0.21	40	0.17
Reading	30	0.16	20	0.15	10	0.08
Slough	10	0.05	10	0.05	20	0.08
Wokingham	40	0.17	40	0.19	30	0.14
Reading West	30	0.16	20	0.16	20	0.12

	2007/08		*2008/09*	
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[6]*
Bracknell Forest	30	0.19	30	0.18
Windsor and Maidenhead	20	0.10	20	0.10
West Berkshire	30	0.12	[7]—	[7]—
Reading	10	0.07	10	0.05
Slough	[7]—	[7]—	10	0.02
Wokingham	30	0.13	30	0.11
Reading West	20	0.12	10	0.04

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Figures are as confirmed by local authorities as part of the data checking exercise.
[4] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[6] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[7] Less than 5, or a percentage based on less than 5.
Source:
School Census

Schools

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many written communications his Department has sent to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* schools since 1 June 2010. [50454]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 April 2011]*: The Department's primary method of written communication to schools and local authorities is by official e-mail. Since 1 June 2010, the Department has issued 29 such e-mails to all local authorities, eight to small groups of schools for operational purposes and nine to all schools informing them of major policy issues.

Comparative figures for 2009/10 show that the Department issued 48 e-mails to all local authorities, 47 to small groups of schools for operational purposes and 33 to all schools informing them of major policy issues.

Schools: Benwell

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to support schools in the Benwell and Scotswood area of Newcastle. [50705]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has written to all local authorities, including Newcastle city council asking them to produce a school improvement plan for underperforming schools in their area by 15 April 2011.

Schools: Drugs

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on introducing pilot voluntary drug testing programmes in secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [50058]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* There are no plans to introduce such a programme nationally. Headteachers are already entitled to develop voluntary approaches within their schools and departmental advice is set out in 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' published in 2004 and available at:

www.education.gov.uk/publications

This document is currently being simplified and updated in line with our commitments to reduce bureaucracy in schools. However, the advice on drug testing is unlikely to change substantially based on currently available evidence.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the use of skunk cannabis on the academic performance of adolescents; and if he will make a statement. [50069]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* Early cannabis use is associated with increased risk of disengagement from school and, ultimately, poor academic performance. This effect is found in both international research papers and in the annual survey "Smoking Drinking and Drug Use Amongst Young People in England" (SDD) funded by the Department for Education, Home Office and NHS Information Centre.

The most recent SDD report found that pupils who had truanted or been excluded from school were far more likely to report regular drug use (14% compared with 1% of pupils who had not truanted or been excluded). Cannabis is the most common drug used among the SDD sample.

However, it is often not possible to identify a simple causal relationship between cannabis use and educational attainment. It is most likely that these behaviours are interrelated with drug use increasing the risk of exclusion or disengagement from school which in turn increases the risk of drug or alcohol misuse.

No specific assessment has been made of the impact of particular types of cannabis.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any potential link between academic underperformance and the use of drugs; and if he will make a statement. [50070]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* There are clear links between early drug use and poor educational outcomes. The Department for Education currently funds a proportion of the annual survey 'Smoking Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England' which provides detailed information on patterns of reported drug use among pupils aged 11 to 15.

Over the past year the Department has also commissioned an analysis of the relationships between different risk factors, including drug use, on educational and social outcomes. The report, which is being completed by the National Centre for Social Research, will draw on data from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England and will be published shortly.

A report 'Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services for Young People—A Cost Benefit Analysis' published in February 2011 looked at the costs associated with poor educational and employment outcomes due to young people's drug and alcohol use.

The full report can be accessed at:

http://education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR087

As part of developing the national Drug Strategy published in December 2010, officials from the Department evaluated a broad range of research evidence on the effects of early drug use on educational and social outcomes and on the effectiveness of programmes designed to prevent drug use among young people.

School Sports

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made in returning funding to school sport partnerships following the initial withdrawal of that funding in October 2010. [51002]

Tim Loughton: Funding of £47 million was paid to school sport partnerships in February this year. This will fund their work up to the end of the summer term 2011. This is in addition to £71 million paid to partnerships in October last year.

Ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships will not continue beyond the summer term 2011. Instead, the Secretary of State is making available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. This funding will cover the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra- and inter-school competition. Further details of this funding will be sent to schools soon.

In addition, at the Sports Colleges Conference in Telford in February, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), announced outline plans for a network of School Games Organisers from September 2011. These organisers will be funded by the Department of Health and Sport England for three days a week to help schools sign up for the nationwide School Games. Further details on the funding for these organiser posts, their precise roles, and how schools can apply for them have been sent to schools.

Taken together, I believe this package of funding will enable schools to maximise the opportunities for competitive sport that they can provide for their pupils.

Schools: Standards

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the allocation of the National Challenge programme funding for local authorities. [39937]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The final National Challenge programme funding allocation will be paid to local authorities at the end of March 2011 as part of the Standards Fund grant. Local authorities have already been notified of their allocations for 2010-11.

Schools: Sun Protection

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what information his Department holds on the number of schools with a sun protection policy; [48973]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to schools on reducing the exposure of children to harmful levels of sunlight; [48974]

(3) what consideration he has given to the merits of requiring mandatory use of sunblock in schools in order to prevent the development of malignant melanomas. [48976]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education holds no information on the number of schools with a sun protection policy; has not issued departmental advice on reducing the exposure of children to harmful levels of sunlight; and has no plans to require, in law, the use of sun block in schools.

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) has a specific section on their website dedicated to schools:

http://www.sunsmart.org.uk/schools/

where teachers can download guidelines on developing sun protection policies, as well as advice on incorporating sun protection into the school curriculum and various SunSmart posters and other resources. There are also other sources of advice and guidance to the public on sun protection such as the Health Protection Agency webpage at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/Radiation/Understanding Radiation/InformationSheets/info_SunsensePoster/

and a Directgov webpage specifically aimed at young people at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/HealthAndRelationships/KeepingHealthy/DG_10036860

The Department expects head teachers to have a common sense approach, using the advice and guidance available, when dealing with sun protection in their schools.

Teachers: Training

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of *(a)* teacher training and *(b)* the balance between academic and practical teacher training. [41381]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper, The Importance of Teaching signalled our plans for the future of teacher training including raising standards for new entrants, for example by providing the funding to more than double the size of Teach First, and ensuring that appropriate and relevant training is available for both new graduates and career changers. We will publish for consultation our detailed proposals for the funding of initial teacher training later this year.

The White Paper reaffirms our commitment to ensure that more teacher training is on the job and practical. Universities will continue to play an important role in training teachers, in partnership with schools.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42641]

Sarah Teather: The big society is more than a collection of policies—it is an approach which is at the heart of the Government's reforms across all policy areas with the aim of localising power and opening up public services and encouraging social action. Each Department has a range of specific programmes which will contribute to growing the big society. These policies are co-ordinated across Government through meetings at official and ministerial level, including the Informal Ministerial Group on the Big Society and Localism, which shares ideas and supports progress on cross-cutting issues relating to the big society.

The Department for Education has several programmes aimed at achieving the big society goals of catalysing social action, decentralising power and opening up public services. These include Free Schools, where we are working with local groups who have submitted proposals and are on track for the first Free Schools to be opened in September 2011, and the National Citizen Service where we are working closely with the Cabinet Office with the first pilots starting in summer 2011.

University Technical Colleges

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether it is his policy that all university technical colleges will *(a)* enrol children aged 11 to 18 years, *(b)* be established in partnership with a university and a further education or sixth form college and *(c)* offer a curriculum which consists of a maximum of 20 per cent. of vocational education. [49735]

Mr Gibb: The Department is committed to setting up technical academies, including at least 24 university technical colleges (UTCs).

The Department welcomes proposals across the age range for new technical academies. UTCs have a 14 to 19 age range and are sponsored by a local university. Further education colleges and other educational institutions may also work in partnership with UTCs.

In her report, Professor Alison Wolf recommended an academic core to the pre-16 curriculum. Where technical academies or UTCs cover pre-16 education, they will provide this academic core, alongside technical studies, through a longer day and year. The Department has not specified how technical academies or UTCs should split students' time between academic and vocational or technical studies.

Work Experience

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the transition from the Young People's Learning Agency to the Education Funding Agency on access by school pupils to work experience in Autumn 2011; and if he will make a statement. [40804]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* Subject to the successful passage of the Education Bill currently before Parliament, the new Education Funding Agency will take over the Young People's Learning Agency's funding responsibilities from 1 April 2012. In these circumstances, the proposed transition will not impact on access by school pupils to work experience in autumn 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Politics and Government

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has assessed the humanitarian needs of ethnic Kachin people relocated to the Myitsone Aung Mye Thar model village in Kachin state, Burma. [50552]

Mr Duncan: We are aware of many cases in Burma where people have been displaced as a result of conflict or to make way for development projects. Humanitarian needs are vast right across the country. The Department for International Development (DFID) is expanding its programme of assistance to the Burmese people significantly over the next four years, focusing on health, education, livelihoods of rural families, civil society and people affected by conflict. Our aid is provided through the United Nations, non-governmental organisations and civil society rather than the Burmese central Government.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50197]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central record of all journeys undertaken by Ministers and the mode of transport used. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code. The Secretary of State, Parliamentary Under-Secretary-of State and I last travelled in a ministerial car on 4 April 2011.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50084]

(2) how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50175]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central record of all journeys undertaken by Ministers and the mode of transport used. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code. Ministers have not been issued with Oyster or other travel cards, but do walk or cycle when possible.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50206]

Mr Duncan: Details of overseas travel by Ministers between 13 May and 30 September 2010 are available on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) website. Details of overseas travel between 1 October and 30 December 2010 will be published on the website shortly. DFID is unable to provide details of ministerial travel in the UK without incurring disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Ivory Coast: Overseas Aid

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department is providing to the people of the Ivory Coast. [50863]

Mr O'Brien: In response to the humanitarian crisis in Ivory Coast, the UK has swiftly responded to the growing needs of its people. The British Government announced last week an urgent emergency aid package totalling £8 million to help tens of thousands of people in Ivory Coast affected by fierce fighting and violence. In addition the British Government have announced a further £8 million to Liberia to help with the refugee influx from the Ivory Coast. The UK also committed £1 million to Liberia for Ivorian refugees back in February.

The new funds provided by Britain to Ivory Coast and Liberia is planned to provide food, shelter, water and sanitation, treatment for malnutrition and basic services for over 90,000 people.

Japan: Humanitarian Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the level of humanitarian aid to Japan provided by his Department following the earthquake of March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [50247]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Japan is well equipped to deal with disasters, but the scale of the devastation caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami was unprecedented. In response, 134 countries including the UK offered humanitarian assistance. However, the decision as to which offers of assistance to accept correctly sits with the Government of Japan, who are best placed to co-ordinate the relief effort in conjunction with local partners. They have been doing a tremendous job in very difficult circumstances.

As a highly developed country, the gaps in humanitarian need that cannot be met by Japan itself are very specific. In addition to the request for the UK to send a search and rescue team, Japan asked the Department for International Development to deliver 100 tonnes of bottled water to Ibariki prefecture so that it could be mixed with baby food. This is being used to protect infants from absorbing potentially damaging levels of radiation leaked into water supplies from the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Mali: Development Aid

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to support *(a)* diversified lending and investment, *(b)* debt relief and *(c)* the achievement of the millennium development goals in Mali. [50280]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Mali to achieve the millennium development goals through our contributions to multilateral development organisations, including the UN, World Bank and European Commission. In 2008-09, the UK's share of multilateral spending in Mali was £38.67 million. The Global Poverty Action Fund, launched in October 2010, is open to applications from civil society organisations to work in the bottom 50 countries on the Human Development Index, including Mali.

DFID was an early supporter of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) Initiative. On reaching completion point in 2003 Mali received debt relief totalling $0.9 billion through HIPC and $2 billion through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The UK provided an additional £2.09 million in debt relief to Mali in 2006-07. Although Mali's risk of debt distress is low, we encourage the Government of Mali to maintain sound debt and fiscal policies and to promote growth and economic diversification in line with IMF guidance.

Mali: Food

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of changes in the adequacy of food supply in Mali since 2010. [50279]

Mr O'Brien: Following a good harvest in late 2010, food availability forecasts across Mali are positive, with the majority of poor households being food secure. However, as the lean season approaches, food availability in the east of the country is likely to deteriorate.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will closely monitor the situation as it develops.

Overseas Aid

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the UK committed to spend as a result of each international conference on *(a)* climate change and *(b)* poverty in the last 10 years; and how much such funding has been spent in each case. [50072]

Mr Duncan: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The coalition Government are clear that the UK will no longer make international promises in monetary terms. What matters is not the amount of money spent but the results delivered for poor people. That is why the Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg) and the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell) made commitments such as saving the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, a quarter of a million newborn babies and enable 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning, at the Millennium Development Goals summit in New York last September.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has provided to Gaza in each of the last five years. [50895]

Mr Duncan: It is not possible to fully disaggregate UK aid to Gaza from our total support to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). For example, our financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA), via a World Bank Trust Fund, helps pay for basic services and salaries of public sector workers in both Gaza and the West Bank. In addition, our support to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) helps provide basic services, such as education, healthcare and social services, to Palestinian refugees across the OPTs and the middle east.

The UK does not provide any support, either directly or indirectly, to the de facto authorities in Gaza. Under European Union and British legislation it is illegal to provide financial assistance to Hamas.

The following table shows, for each of the last five financial years, how much aid the UK provided to the PA, UNRWA, OPTs-wide projects that included a Gaza component, and humanitarian aid and funding for early recovery work to Gaza.

UK aid intervention	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (benefitting both Gaza and the west bank)	£30 million through World Bank Trust Fund	£38.5 million through World Bank Trust Fund	£23.5 million through World Bank Trust Fund	£38.45 million (£3 million through Temporary International Mechanism; £15.45 million through PEGASE; £20 million through World Bank Trust Fund)	£11.875 million through Temporary International Mechanism
Financial assistance to UNRWA (unless otherwise stated, this is core funding spent across the OPTs Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan	£27 million core funding	£19.93 million core funding plus £5 million specifically for education in Gaza	£19 million core funding	£15.6 million core funding	£15 million core funding

UK aid intervention	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Projects across the OPTs with Gaza component	£1.47 million	£1.07 million	£0.63 million	—	£51,000
Humanitarian aid and early recovery work (Gaza only)	£5.2 million	£11.9 million	£13.3 million	£3 million	£0.23 million

TREASURY

Banks

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a oral statement to the House after the Easter Recess on the interim findings of the Independent Commission on Banking. [50131]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* The Government have no plans for a debate on the interim report of the Independent Commission on Banking. The Government welcome the progress that the Commission has made and look forward to receiving its final recommendations in September 2011.

Banks: Corporate Hospitality

Mrs Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with banking institutions in which the Government has a stake on planned expenditure on corporate hospitality in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [50853]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer meets chief executives of UK banking institutions on a range of issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Banks: Incentives

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of individuals likely to benefit from the exemption whereby trusts established by firms for the payment of bonuses in the banking industry may defer paying tax on such bonuses for between three to five years in each of the next four financial years; [50020]

(2) what his policy is on continuing the ability of trusts established to pay bonuses by firms in the banking industry to defer paying tax on such bonuses for between three and five years; [50124]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the exemption whereby trusts established to pay bonuses by firms in the banking industry may defer paying tax on such bonuses for between three and five years. [50125]

Mr Hoban: As part of the Government's commitment to tackle tax avoidance, Finance Bill 2011 includes legislation to target arrangements involving intermediary vehicles, including trusts, put in place by employers to disguise remuneration or avoid restrictions on pensions tax relief. The Government have consulted widely and have given very careful consideration to ensuring that the legislation does not impact on responsible and sustainable remuneration structures where there is no tax avoidance motive.

Legislation in the 2011 Finance Bill will not apply to genuine deferrals of remuneration, subject to a five year limit. Taking account of genuine deferral will ensure consistent treatment with existing rules applying to rewards that are paid directly to the employee by the employer, but with the additional safeguard of the five year time limit.

Arrangements which are motivated by tax avoidance will be charged immediately to the full rate of tax under the new law.

No such estimates are available in relation to the exemptions mentioned in the hon. Member's questions.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 16 of Project Merlin - Banks' Statement, whether the chief executive of each banking institution will forfeit their right to *(a)* a bonus and *(b)* an annual increase in base salary if the relevant lending targets are not met. [50161]

Mr Hoban: The banks have stated a capacity and willingness to lend £190 billion of new credit to business in 2011, up from £179 billion actual lending in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this new lending capacity will be to small and medium-sized enterprises.

These lending commitments will be part of the performance metrics of each bank's chief executive. If a bank does not meet the commitment, its chief executive will not receive the maximum pay and bonus as a result.

Child Tax Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the savings to his Department from the reduction in sums payable under the childcare element of working tax credit in each of the next four financial years. [50127]

Justine Greening: The latest estimate of the savings to HMRC from the reduction in sums payable under the child care element of working tax credit was published in chapter 2 (p.44) of the Budget 2011 document, available at

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_chapter2.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the likely effect on annual incomes of households to which the childcare element of working tax credit is to be reduced of circumstances where one spouse or partner is required to reduce their hours of employment in order to provide additional childcare in person. [50135]

Justine Greening: The reduction of child care support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review. There are interactions between the measures so estimating the impact of just one measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on households.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50702]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury Group (including HM Treasury, the UK Debt Management Office, and the Asset Protection Agency) has not held any contracts with Lockheed Martin since financial year 2002-03. As a result of change in the Department's finance and accounting systems, information for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Meetings

Chris Bryant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Central Europe Trust; [49781]

(2) on how many occasions he has met Lord Lawson of Blaby in the course of his official duties since his appointment. [49857]

Justine Greening *[holding answers 29 March 2011]:* A list of Treasury Ministers' meetings with outside interest groups is published quarterly on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ministerial_meetings.htm

Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sector as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Welsh Economy

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to rebalance the Welsh economy. [50313]

Danny Alexander: The Government set out in the Budget and in their Plan for Growth the steps they intend to take to rebalance the UK economy, including the Welsh economy. Measures that will benefit Wales include reducing corporation tax and tax simplification; support for SMEs including increasing finance for new start-ups and business growth; support for investment including the Green Investment Bank, reforms to UKTI, and sectoral support; and a more educated workforce including additional work experience placements. In devolved areas of policy it is for the Welsh Assembly Government to determine its own policies and priorities.

Financial Services

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of exposure of companies regulated by the Financial Services Authority to defaults relating to *(a)* government debt within the euro-zone, *(b)* household lending, *(c)* commercial property, *(d)* US residential and commercial property and *(e)* emerging markets; and if he will make a statement. [50248]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury works closely with the Bank of England and the FSA to monitor and manage risks to financial stability, including those posed by exposure to specific default risks. The authorities consider a wide range of scenarios and make contingency plans accordingly. In addition, the FSA stress tests institutions regularly to ensure they have sufficient capital to withstand severe financial and economic shocks. More details on the FSA stress testing process are available on the FSA website:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/About/What/International/stress_testing/index.shtml

A description of the FSA stress scenarios is provided in the "Prudential Risk Outlook", published in March 2011 by the FSA.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to assess whether the banks participating in Project Merlin meet their commitment on levels of new credit to be made available to business in 2011; and what steps he plans to take if these commitments are not met. [50312]

Mr Hoban: The Bank of England will publish quarterly data on the banks' total new lending to businesses under the Project Merlin definition. The Government will consider the banks' performance against the commitment in due course.

FirstBuy Programme

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* mortgage providers and *(b)* the Council for Mortgage Lenders on the FirstBuy programme; and if he will make a statement. [50120]

Grant Shapps: I have been asked to reply.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has welcomed the FirstBuy programme announced by the Chancellor in the Budget. My Officials meet with the council and lenders on a regular basis.

FirstBuy will be delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency who have had initial discussions with over 50 retail lenders regarding the scheme and further meetings will follow.

Fuel Prices

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received of petrol stations which have not reduced the price of fuel following his Budget Statement on 23 March 2011. [51008]

Justine Greening: Based on established practice the Government's expectation is that retailers should pass on duty changes to their customers. The Government routinely monitor pump price data and are taking note of other evidence.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on economic growth of the adoption of the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change that the UK should aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent. of 1990 levels by 2030. [50605]

Justine Greening: The Government are currently considering the recommendations in Committee on Climate Change's report on the level of the fourth carbon budget (2023-27). Government are required by the Climate Change Act to set the level of the fourth carbon budget by June, taking into account a range of issues including economic and fiscal impacts. The Committee on Climate Change assessed the cost of implementing their recommendations, and concluded they would be less than 1% of GDP in 2025. This is in line with previous assessments of the cost of tackling climate change.

Home Owners

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the merits of bringing forward proposals to assist home owners who are unable to move house due to *(a)* the state of the property market and *(b)* difficulty in securing lending; and if he will make a statement. [50119]

Mr Hoban: The Government recognise the importance of a sustainable mortgage market to support a stable housing market.

The Government are determined that creditworthy borrowers looking to buy a home or move should have access to affordable mortgages. Our tough action on the deficit will help keep market interest rates low. The Government are also working with the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the Bank of England and international authorities to maintain stability in the financial system. This will help ensure banks and building societies have access to the funds they need to lend.

Budget 2011 included a number of measures to encourage investment in the housing market and to assist first-time buyers. The Government's Plan for Growth also set out a number of reforms to the planning regime to help ensure that we increase rates of house building. This will be crucial to improving housing affordability over the medium term.

Housing: Valuation

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has undertaken on measures to evaluate for the purposes of taxation the monetary value of domestic properties. [50819]

Mr Gauke: No such research has been undertaken.

Aggregate information on the value of domestic properties is available for England from tables published by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Income Tax

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of income tax revenue was derived from the *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third quartile of earners in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 1998-99. [43795]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 3 March 2011]*: Estimated proportions of income tax liabilities accounted for by individuals in the first, second and third quartiles of taxpayers by total income in 1997-98 and 1998-99 are provided as follows:

Percentage

Taxpayer quartile by total income	*Share of income tax liabilities 1997-98*	*Share of income tax liabilities 1998-99*
1	3.3	2.8
2	9.7	9.4
3	19.6	19.0

These figures are based on the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Survey of Personal Incomes.

Similar estimates for 1999-2000 to 2007-08, and projections to 2010-11 are available on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-4.pdf

An error has been identified in the written answer provided on 15 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 691-92W, to a related question, providing the percentage of income tax derived from the (a) top 1%, (b) top 5%, (c) top 10%, (d) top 25%, (e) lowest 50%, (f) lowest 25%, and (g) lowest 10%, of earners in 1998-99.

A corrected version of the information requested is provided in the following table.

Table 2.4: Shares of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups, 1999-2000 to 2010-11. Taxpayers only

Percentage

Percentile Groups (ranged on total income before tax)	*Lowest*				*Lower*	*Higher*	*Highest*			
	1%	*5%*	*10%*	*25%*	*50%*	*50%*	*25%*	*10%*	*5%*	*1%*
Share of total income										
Before tax										
1999-2000	0.2	1.3	2.8	8.9	23.8	76.2	53.4	32.9	23.3	11.0
2000-01	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.5	23.2	76.8	54.1	33.7	24.0	11.5
2001-02	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.6	23.4	76.6	53.9	33.4	23.7	11.1
2002-03	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.6	23.5	76.5	53.7	33.1	23.3	10.8
2003-04	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.5	23.3	76.7	53.9	33.3	23.6	11.0
2004-05	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.4	22.9	77.1	54.4	33.6	23.8	11.3

Table 2.4: Shares of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups, 1999-2000 to 2010-11, Taxpayers only

Percentage

	Lowest				*Lower*	*Higher*	*Highest*			
Percentile Groups (ranged on total income before tax)	*1%*	*5%*	*10%*	*25%*	*50%*	*50%*	*25%*	*10%*	*5%*	*1%*
2005-06	0.2	1.2	2.6	8.3	22.4	77.6	55.3	34.8	25.1	12.2
2006-07	0.2	1.2	2.6	8.2	22.2	77.8	55.8	35.5	25.8	12.9
2007-08	0.2	1.1	2.5	8.1	22.1	77.9	56.1	36.0	26.4	13.4
2008-09[1]	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.6	22.8	77.2	55.4	35.6	26.1	13.3
2009-10[1]	0.2	1.3	2.8	8.8	23.1	76.9	55.1	35.2	25.8	13.1
2010-11[1]	0.2	1.3	2.8	8.8	23.1	76.9	54.8	34.8	25.2	12.4
After tax										
1999-2000	0.3	1.5	3.4	10.2	26.4	73.6	50.0	29.3	19.9	8.8
2000-01	0.3	1.5	3.2	9.9	25.8	74.2	50.6	29.8	20.4	9.2
2001-02	0.3	1.5	3.2	9.9	26.0	74.0	50.3	29.5	20.0	8.9
2002-03	0.3	1.5	3.2	10.0	26.1	73.9	50.1	29.2	19.7	8.6
2003-04	0.3	1.4	3.2	9.8	25.9	74.1	50.4	29.5	20.1	8.9
2004-05	0.3	1.4	3.2	9.8	25.5	74.5	50.8	29.7	20.3	9.1
2005-05	0.3	1.4	3.1	9.6	25.1	74.9	51.7	30.8	21.3	9.9
2006-07	0.3	1.4	3.1	9.6	24.9	75.1	52.1	31.4	22.0	10.5
2007-08	0.2	1.4	3.1	9.5	24.8	75.2	52.4	31.8	22.5	10.9
2008-09[1]	03	1.5	3.2	9.9	25.3	74.7	51.9	31.4	22.1	10.7
2009-10[1]	0.3	1.5	3.3	10.1	25.6	74.4	51.5	31.2	21.9	10.5
2010-11[1]	0.3	1.5	3.3	10.2	25.8	74.2	50.9	30.1	20.7	9.2
Share of total tax										
1999-2000	—	0.1	0.3	2.4	11.6	88.4	69.5	50.3	39.6	21.3
2000-01	—	0.1	0.3	2.2	11.3	88.7	70.3	51.5	40.7	22.2
2001-02	—	0.1	0.3	2.2	11.1	88.9	70.8	51.9	40.8	21.8
2002-03	—	0.1	0.3	2.2	11.1	88.9	70.5	51.5	40.2	21.0
2003-04	—	0.1	0.3	2.2	11.2	88.8	70.1	50.9	39.8	20.8
2004-05	—	0.1	0.3	2.1	10.8	89.2	70.7	51.4	40.3	21.4
2005-06	—	0.1	0.3	2.1	10.6	89.4	71.5	52.9	41.9	22.7
2006-07	—	0.1	0.3	2.1	10.5	89.5	71.8	53.5	42.6	23.5
2007-08	—	0.1	0.3	2.1	10.4	89.6	72.2	54.3	43.4	24.4
2008-09[1]	—	0.1	0.6	2.8	11.4	88.6	71.7	54.6	44.0	24.9
2009-10[1]	—	0.1	0.6	2.8	11.4	88.6	71.5	54.3	44.0	25.1
2010-11[1]	—	0.1	0.5	2.6	11.0	89.0	72.3	55.5	45.3	26.6

"—" = Negligible.

[1] Projected estimates based upon the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes using economic assumptions consistent with the OBR's November 2010 economic and fiscal outlook. These projections fall outside the scope of National Statistics.

Source:

Survey of Personal Incomes

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to retain the 50p rate of income tax on incomes over £150,000 for the duration of the current Parliament. [50130]

Mr Gauke: The Government believe the 50% rate would do lasting damage to the UK economy if it were to become permanent. The Chancellor has asked HMRC to assess the revenue raised by this measure after self-assessment data for the 2010-11 tax year are available.

Income Tax: Overpayments

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what was the average length of time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to complete a repayment to an individual who had made an income tax overpayment in each of the last 10 years; [43805]

(2) if he will take steps to reduce the time taken for HM Revenue and Customs to make repayments to individuals who have made income tax overpayments. [43808]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* There are many circumstances in which an income tax repayment may arise. Overpayments of income tax are normally processed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as soon as entitlement has been established. Information across income tax on the average length of time taken to process a repayment is not available.

HMRC seek to strike a balance between good customer service, by ensuring customers receive the repayments to which they are entitled as quickly as possible, and effectively protecting the Exchequer from fraud. Once entitlement has been established, the great majority of repayments are issued without significant delay. Additional security checks may mean that a small minority of repayments could take a little longer to be issued while HMRC ensure that they are not fraudulent and are correct. HMRC is sorry that, particularly at peak times, this may mean that legitimate repayments may be delayed and understand the difficulties this can cause their customers.

Over the last few years HMRC have made significant changes to procedures to speed up the issue of legitimate repayments and reduce any delays.

Most PAYE overpayments are identified on the reconciliation of a tax year and payable orders are issued shortly after the overpayment has been calculated. For the first time with the new national insurance and PAYE system, HMRC is now able to undertake most reconciliations automatically, rather than having to work these cases manually.

As a result HMRC has completed 98% of PAYE reconciliations for tax years 2008-09 and 2009-10 where they have received all the information. This has enabled repayments for 2008-09 and 2009-10 tax years to be made much more quickly than was possible under the previous PAYE system and NPS will support further processing improvement year on year.

Income Tax: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people on low incomes in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Poole constituency who will no longer pay income tax following implementation of his decision to increase the personal income tax allowance. [50512]

Mr Gauke: The increase in the personal allowance by £630 for those aged under 65 is estimated to remove the 260,000 lowest income taxpayers out of income tax altogether in 2012-13. In combination with the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12, the increases in the personal allowance announced by this Government will remove an estimated 1.1 million individuals out of income tax altogether by 2012-13.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 and 2012-13 in line with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 forecast assumptions.

Reliable estimates are not available at parliamentary constituency level, due to small survey sample sizes and significant uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on the long-term value of holdings in individual savings accounts of the policy to link personal tax allowances to the consumer price index measure of inflation. [50021]

Mr Hoban: The long-term value of holdings in individual savings accounts (ISAs) is affected by a variety of factors including fluctuations in asset prices, average dividend yields, average interest rates and households' propensity to save. No detailed analysis of the precise effects of using the CPI inflation measure on ISA holdings in general is available but the effect is thought to be relatively small.

Further information is contained in the published Tax information and Impact Note (A31) of the Overview of Tax Legislation and Rates document to be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
2011budget_taxation_overview.pdf

Mr Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support savers. [50513]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to creating conditions for higher savings over the longer term. In particular, the Government aim to encourage more lower and middle income households to start saving and save more, especially for the long term and retirement. Government support should be fair and sustainable, focused on those who traditionally have saved least.

The Government want a saving system based on freedom, fairness and responsibility, as well as ensuring lasting affordability and measurable effectiveness. These principles will guide the Government's aims of rewarding saving, supporting pensions, and helping vulnerable households.

A number of measures have been announced which will take the first steps in meeting these aims, such as the indexation of annual subscription limits for Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs), meaning that savers will be able to pay an extra £480 into their ISAs in 2011-12. To ensure parents can save tax free for their children, the Government are developing a Junior ISA which will be launched in autumn this year. The Government are also introducing from spring 2011 a national financial advice service and a free financial "healthcheck", delivered by the Money Advice Service (formerly the Consumer Financial Education Body). This new service will help people take responsibility for their finances and encourage them to think about savings and protection. In addition to this the Government have given individuals more choice over the use of their pension savings to provide a retirement income by removing the effective requirement to purchase an annuity by age 75.

The Government have also confirmed that employers will have a new duty to automatically enrol qualifying employees into a minimum quality pension scheme from 2012. The Government believe this behavioural device can make a real difference; as a result around 4-8 million might start saving or saving more into a workplace pension scheme. The Government are also establishing the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) to provide a low cost pension scheme for individuals not currently served by the market.

Inheritance Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects on the portion of a deceased's estate which is exempt from inheritance tax of the policy to link personal tax allowances to the consumer price index measure of inflation. [50025]

Mr Gauke: The inheritance tax threshold is frozen until the end of March 2015 and a CPI switch will take effect from April 2015. The impact of the measure on individual estates is uncertain as the exact thresholds will ultimately depend upon the inflation rates nearer the time. The current estimate of the impact is summarised in the following table.

Final costing, National Accounts basis(£m)

	IHT, CPI from April 2015
2011-12	0
2012-13	0
2013-14	0

Final costing, National Accounts basis(£m)

	IHT, CPI from April 2015
2014-15	[1]—
2015-16	20

[1] Negligible.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for North East Hampshire of 21 July, 11 October and 20 December 2010 on his constituent, Mr Harris, Treasury reference 3/13766/2010. [50024]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses had qualified for the national insurance contribution holiday for new firms on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [48529]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 23 March 2011]:* By 28 March 2011, HMRC had received 2,892 successful applications for the regional NICs holiday from new businesses. A regional breakdown of the figures can be found in a recently released FOI answer:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/freedom/nic-holiday.htm

Taxation: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the implications of combining national insurance and income tax will be for the income tax powers contained in the provisions of the Scotland Bill. [50109]

Mr Gauke: In Budget 2011 the Government announced their intention to consult on potential reforms to integrate the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions (NICs).

In doing so, the Government have been clear that income tax and NICs will remain separate. This reflects the important role NICs play in providing entitlement to contributory benefits and the potential impacts on the rest of the income tax system from a full merger.

Any change in this area will involve a wide range of policy and implementation issues, and require extensive consultation to get it right. The Government will start this consultative process later this year by publishing an initial consultation document on the options, stages and timing of reform. Wider issues, such as the interaction with the proposals in the Scotland Bill, will be taken into account in considering the options brought forward for consultation.

Pensions: Tax Allowances

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the revenue yield of restricting pensions tax relief to *(a)* 20, *(b)* 30 and *(c)* 35 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [49433]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimate the yield of restricting tax relief in 2011-12 to:

(a) 20% is £7 billion,

(b) 30% is £4 billion,

(c) 35% is £2.5 billion.

This is on an accruals basis and excludes behavioural effects. It takes into account the new restrictions on tax relief on pension contributions to registered pension schemes that will mean the annual allowance reduces to £50,000 from the 2011-12 tax year and the lifetime allowance reduces to £1.5 million from 2012-13.

Post Office: Bank Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 884W, on the Post Office: bank services, from whom research was commissioned on exploring the options for all customers to have the opportunity to benefit from direct debit discounts; and when he plans to publish such research. [50321]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Taskforce commissioned research from Social Finance to explore the commercial viability of a new financial product (a 'jam jar' account) designed to meet the needs of low-income consumers by supporting positive financial management, smoothing expenditure and enabling access to better value services and products, such as direct debits. The research will be published on the HM Treasury website by 15 April 2011.

Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects of recent trends in inflation on the value of spending allocations to Government Departments in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [49286]

Danny Alexander: In line with usual practice, departmental expenditure limits for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were set in cash terms in the 2010 spending review. Settlements were based on the best forecast of inflation at the time, produced by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and forecasts of inflation are always subject to change.

Revenue and Customs: Security

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many security incidents were recorded by the Security and Business Continuity Directorate in HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2007. [51015]

Mr Gauke: We provide information about security incidents reported centrally within HMRC for the Resource Account and the Annual Information Risk Return to Cabinet Office.

	Total
2007-08	211
2008-09	171
2009-10	88
2010-11	46

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were employed in the Security and Business Continuity Directorate in HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2007. [51016]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's Security and Business Continuity function has undergone significant organisational change since 2007. The number of staff employed in HMRC's Security and Business Continuity core function for each financial year since 2007 was:

	Number
2007-08	73
2008-09	79
2009-10	75
2010-11	61

The figure quoted in respect of 2007-08 is on the basis of full-time equivalent staff in post, rounded to the nearest whole number, as at 6 December 2007. The figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 represent the average number of full-time equivalent staff in post for each year, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Tax Allowances

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects on capital gains tax allowances of the policy to link personal tax allowances to the consumer price index measure of inflation. [50022]

Mr Gauke: A full assessment of the impact was made as part of the Budget decision making process and is available in the published Tax Information and Impact Note (A35) of the Overview of Tax Legislation and Rates document.

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_taxation_overview.pdf

Taxation: Pensions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure that persons of pensionable age do not incur additional tax liabilities arising from any merger of income tax and national insurance; and what estimate he has made of the transitional costs which would arise from managing such arrangements. [50101]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 1.77 of the Budget 2011 document available at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

The Government will publish an initial consultation document later this year to consult on the options, stages and timing of reforms to integrate the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions (NICs).

The Government will not extend NICs to individuals above state pension age or to other forms of income such as pensions, savings and dividends.

Taxation: Oil

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the level of revenue accruing to the Exchequer from taxation on oil production companies in *(a)* the last four financial years and *(b)* the next four financial years. [49719]

Danny Alexander: Government revenues to 2009-10 from UK oil and gas production are published as National Statistics on the HMRC website, in Table 11.11, at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_11.pdf

A forecast of UK oil and gas revenues to 2015-16 was published at Budget 2011 by the Office for Budget Responsibility, in Table C.3 on page 92, at the following link:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_annexc.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Budget 2011, HC 836, whether he has assessed the likely extent of fluctuation in the level of revenue accruing from the tax on oil production levied on companies operating within the UK in the next four financial years. [50316]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility published its "Economic and fiscal outlook" on 23 March 2011. Selected tables from the report are at annex C of the Budget 2011 report This includes a forecast of UK oil and gas revenues from corporation tax and petroleum revenue tax, in table C.3 on page 92, at the following link:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_annexc.pdf

The "Economic and fiscal outlook" discusses the UK oil and gas revenues forecast on page 110, and the impact of oil prices on the fiscal forecast in box 4.1 on page 111. A link to the full report is as follows:

http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

VAT: Training

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue he expects to accrue to the Exchequer in each year from value added tax on pilot training. [50470]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate has been made. The information is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 April 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [50837]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, my Department has approved early retirement for two members of staff at a cost of £201,324.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50694]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not signed any contract with Lockheed Martin in the last 10 years.

The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executives of each body to write to the hon. Member for Wells. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49253]

John Penrose: The only programme of grants the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) made to local authorities in 2010-11 was for the free swimming initiative, which was revenue funding. The grant allocations for the period from 1 April to 31 July 2010, when the scheme ended, totalled £11,316,665. A breakdown of amounts allocated by local authority can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/FS-Grant_determination2010-11-_final.pdf

In 2011-12 DCMS will make annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments to local authorities totalling £18,462,200. These payments are classified as current year spending in the Department's budget. A breakdown of payments by local authority can be found in the table.

PFI payments for earlier years were met from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Revenue Support Grant and not by DCMS. It is therefore not possible to provide real terms comparisons.

Local authority—Operational	*2011-12 grant (£)*
Amber Valley	1,260,088
Bournemouth	1,254,181
Breckland	700,863
Brent	1,241,970
Brighton	1,504,913
Cornwall	603,606
Leeds	2,321,097
Lewisham	923,706
Newcastle	3,208,148
Oldham	1,803,457
Rotherham	1,810,796
Sefton	560,687
Uttlesford	449,954
Wolverhampton	818,733
Total	18,462,200

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50188]

John Penrose: DCMS Ministers do not have the use of individual ministerial cars. Cars are booked through the Government Car and Despatch Agency when required.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

Minister	*Date of last use of pool car*	*Number of times pool car used to travel to constituency*
Secretary of State	5 February 2011	0
Minister for Sport and the Olympics	11 November 2010	2
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries	13 May 2010	0
Minister for Tourism and Heritage	No car used	0

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and the Design Council; [48703]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships; [48704]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites; [48705]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the UK Film Council; [48730]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Theatres Trust; [48731]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Public Lending Right; [48732]

(7) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council; [48733]

(8) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel; [48734]

(9) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Horserace Totalisator Board; [48735]

(10) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Football Licensing Authority; [48736]

(11) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Advisory Council on Libraries; [48737]

(12) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of Visit England; [48739]

(13) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of S4C; [48740]

(14) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the Horserace Betting Levy Board; [48741]

(15) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of Sport England and UK Sport; [48804]

(16) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the merging of the Gambling Commission and the National Lottery Commission. [48805]

John Penrose: The reform of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) public bodies is part of a cross-Government drive to improve the accountability of public bodies and to seek to reduce their cost and number, with a view to simplifying the public bodies landscape.

In view of the range of reforms that have been announced and the different periods over which they will be carried out, the benefits will be realised over different time scales, with some delivering net savings beyond the current spending review period.

Estimated savings are in the following table. These estimates are subject to ongoing review as the final details of the implementation of the reforms are agreed.

ALB	*Proposed reform*	*Savings anticipated*
S4C	Amend current RPI/funding link	DCMS savings of around £230 million are expected over the spending review period (including a transfer of funding of £152.3 million from the Exchequer to the television licence fee).
Gambling Commission/ National Lottery Commission	Merge	Reforms including co-location and merger are estimated to generate savings of approximately £600,000 to £900,000 per annum (Note: neither costs nor savings fall to the Exchequer).
Horserace Betting Levy Board	Modify functions to remove Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport's role in determining the levy	No significant costs or savings anticipated for taxpayer, although costs of political lobbying to bookmaking and racing industries will reduce significantly.
Football Licensing Authority	Abolish current NDPB and transfer expertise and functions to another body	No significant costs or savings anticipated.
Horserace Totalisator Board	Declassify and transfer from public ownership	No administrative costs or savings to the Exchequer, but capital receipt expected from disposal.

For reforms relating to the UK Film Council, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, Public Lending Right, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Sport England and UK Sport the costs and benefits are subject to ongoing analysis and while we expect they will generate material savings no final figures are yet available.

DCMS also has a number of advisory NDPBs that have either little or no associated costs. Reforms relating to these bodies will not therefore generate any significant savings, but likewise will be achieved at little or no cost. In some cases, such as the Theatres Trust, it is important to note that the bodies are not being abolished but will be declassified, as the NDPB status is not necessary for the body to carry out its functions. The correct proposed reforms for our advisory bodies listed are:

Advisory Committee on National Historic Ships: No longer an NDPB—Declassify and transfer functions

Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites: No longer an NDPB—Abolish and transfer functions in relation to England to English Heritage

Advisory Council on Libraries: No longer an NDPB—Abolish body and functions

Visit England: Retain—Modify constitution to increase representation of destinations on Visit England Board

Theatres Trust: No longer an NDPB—Continue as a charity

Legal Deposit Advisory Panel: No longer an NDPB—Abolish body and functions (was abolished in August 2010)

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50077]

John Penrose: DCMS Ministers regularly travel by London Underground and public buses on Government business.

Oyster cards are available for use by all the Department's Ministers but the number of journeys made by these forms of transport since May 2010 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50166]

John Penrose: All Ministers within the Department have been provided with pay-as-you-go Oyster cards for use while travelling on Government business. No monthly or annual travel cards have been issued.

Gambling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he has received representations from *(a)* the gambling industry and *(b)* GamCare on the administrative burden placed upon GamCare by the regime implemented by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board and the Responsible Gambling Fund; and if he will make a statement; [49841]

(2) whether he has received representations from *(a)* the gambling industry and *(b)* GamCare on risks to GamCare's provision of treatment services attributable to the time taken to arrange funding; [49842]

(3) if he will review the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* administrative burden resulting from the creation of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board and the Responsible Gambling Fund to determine whether research, education and treatment in respect of problem gambling could be more effectively delivered through GamCare; and if he will make a statement. [49843]

John Penrose: Ministers have received representations from a number of interested parties about recent difficulties in resolving funding arrangements for some services to problem gamblers. This is a matter for the independent charities concerned, and for their respective Boards of Trustees where relevant. I understand that the immediate issues have now been resolved. I hope that the parties involved will continue to demonstrate their commitment to tackling problem gambling by working together constructively to agree a longer term solution. The current funding structure was established by the industry, in preference to a statutory levy, to try to ensure that industry donations are used to the best effect to reduce problem gambling levels. It does not involve public money, nor any publicly imposed administrative burdens.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) under what powers the white list of approved gambling jurisdictions has been suspended; [50037]

(2) whether any applications have been made to join the white list of approved gambling jurisdictions since its suspension. [50038]

John Penrose: Section 331(4) of the Gambling Act 2005 enables the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to add jurisdictions to the 'white list' so that operators regulated in those countries can advertise gambling services in the UK. In 2009, the Department announced that new applications for the white list would not be considered while the regulation of remote gambling in Britain was being reviewed. That remains the position. I understand that some jurisdictions have expressed interest in being added to the white list, but no applications have been made. I hope to make an announcement on how the Government intend to proceed in due course.

Humanitarian Assistance

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff his Department's Humanitarian Assistance Unit employed in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* February 2011. [48074]

John Penrose: Within the Humanitarian Assistance Unit there were 4.0 FTE staff in April 2010 and 0.5 FTE staff in February 2011. This reduction reflects the improved capability at the local level to care for people after major emergencies. New Humanitarian Assistance guidance is available on the following webpage

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/humanitarian-assistance-emergencies

with complementary best practice available on the Emergency Planning Society's website at

http://www.the-eps.org

Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48427]

John Penrose: The Department has spent £1,859.37 on plants since the Secretary of State's appointment.

Royal Parks Agency

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the Royal Parks Agency is taking steps to address trends in acute oak decline in trees in Richmond Park. [50036]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks (TRP) is working with the Forestry Commission and other key agencies to address the problem of acute or chronic oak decline. TRP has put a strategy in place and allocated additional resource to help mitigate the impact in Richmond and Bushy parks.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Pay

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the post is of each person employed in the House of Commons Service with a salary higher than that of an hon. Member. [51072]

John Thurso: The basic salary payable to Members is £65,738 per annum as at 1 April 2011. At that date, 76 staff were paid an annual salary above this figure. A list of the posts in the Senior Commons Structure and at pay band A1, which have pay maxima higher than Members' current salary, will be placed in the Library. Details of the staff pay bands and staff pay arrangements are available on the parliamentary intranet.

Select Committees: Visits Abroad

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many overseas visits each Select Committee has made in the course of the present Parliament; and what cost to the House Service each Committee has incurred on such visits. [50820]

John Thurso: The information on those Select Committees which have undertaken overseas visits in this present Parliament to date is given in the following table.

Select Committee overseas travel since May 2010

Committee	*Number of visits*	*Estimated costs (£)*
Business, Innovation and Skills	1	28,893
Culture, Media and Sport	1	12,674
Defence	3	40,564
Education	2	17,061
Energy and Climate Change	3	48,825
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2	5,202
Environmental Audit	4	14,874
European Scrutiny	4	14,272
Foreign Affairs	3	77,767
Home Affairs	1	11,320
International Development	3	78,673
Justice	1	426
Northern Ireland Affairs	1	6,557
Science and Technology	2	13,694
Transport	2	8,613
Treasury	1	32,260
Welsh Affairs	1	6,384
Work and Pensions	2	32,277

Notes:

1. Some costs are provisional and subject to minor change owing to outstanding invoices.
2. Visits made in a representative capacity and those made to European institutions are included.

The remaining Select Committees have not undertaken any overseas visits.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the payment of a cold weather payment has been triggered for residents of Clwyd South constituency in the last five years. [50478]

Steve Webb: In 2010-11, Clwyd South constituency was linked to Hawarden airport, Lake Vyrnwy and Shawbury weather stations. In the previous four years, Clwyd South constituency, as it now is, was linked to Crosby, Lake Vyrnwy and Shawbury weather stations. Please find the information requested in the following table:

Number of cold weather payment triggers for residents of Clwyd South

Weather station	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Hawarden Airport	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
Lake Vyrnwy	0	1	3	4	5
Shawbury	1	0	2	3	5
Crosby	0	0	1	2	n/a

Note:

A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)

Sources:

(1) Postcode districts in Clwyd South: National Statistics Postcode Directory.

(2) Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records.

(3) Records of triggers by weather station: Department for Work and Pensions records.

Crisis Loans

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training his Department provides to staff on eligibility and processing of interim claims under the Social Security (Payment on Account, Overpayments and Recovery) Regulations 1988 in respect of delayed crisis loans. [51076]

Steve Webb: Where a customer is in hardship due either to the time taken to process their benefit claim or to the fact that an emergency has arisen before their next payment is due, they may be able to get an interim payment or a Social Fund crisis loan. An interim payment is always considered in the first instance. Where either there is a doubt about entitlement or no benefit is due, for example at the beginning of a claim, a Social Fund crisis loan is appropriate. An interim payment is not appropriate for a delayed crisis loan because interim payments are made in recognition of the fact that benefit will ultimately be payable for the period in question.

Training for the administration of interim payments is included in the new entrant learning for a benefit delivery processor dealing with claims to income support (IS), jobseekers allowance (JSA) and employment support allowance (ESA), supported by links to the relevant guidance. This training provides an awareness of the interim payment process and includes the priorities for an interim payment and a crisis loan, the action to take on entitlement, and the action to take when the customer does not qualify for an interim payment. The training for these types of payments across the three benefits also includes the detailed processes and actions to take within prescribed time limits to ensure the accuracy of an interim payment.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy was on payment of more than three crisis loans in one year to a claimant prior to the implementation of the cap on the number of awards from April 2011. [51079]

Steve Webb: There was no limit on the number of crisis loans that could be awarded prior to 4 April 2011. However (excluding alignment requests to an initial benefit payment or wages) face to face interviews were introduced on 30 October 2009 for customers applying for their third and subsequent living expense crisis loan in a 12 month rolling period.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50703]

Chris Grayling: There are no records of contracts with the Department and its associated public bodies with Lockheed Martin within the last 10 years.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the Health and Safety Executive. [48762]

Chris Grayling: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The Health and Safety Executive is not subject to any functional changes or associated savings arising from the public bodies reform programme. However, I estimate overall savings of £233 million over the 2010 spending review period against its 2010-11 baseline.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on consultancy since May 2010. [38525]

Chris Grayling: DWP has spent £30.5 million on consultancy since May 2010 until December 2010.

Of this figure, £13.5 million was management consultancy and £17million was IT consultancy.

Of the £13.5 million management consultancy figure, £80,000 was entered into after May 2010.

We are unable to break down the IT consultancy figure as this information is not held centrally and could only be gathered at a cost.

Consultancy spend for the period May 2009 to December 2009 was £42.7 million. Spend has, therefore, reduced by 29%.

In common with all Government Departments, DWP is subject to a freeze on consultancy engagements. All requests for consultancy procurement are challenged to ensure that the work is essential and cannot be performed by existing staff and all requests for new contracts (and extensions to existing contracts) over £20,000 have to be approved at ministerial level.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49191]

Chris Grayling: The Department has run three voluntary early release programmes during 2010-11. Each has been subject to a formal value for money business case for approval.

The first group of staff offered early release were administrative assistants, our most junior grade, who were surplus or at risk of becoming surplus as a result of the introduction of new technology and business processes. There were 245 offers made with 178 accepted.

The second and third group of staff have largely been in managerial and specialist grades in departmental and Agency corporate functions. Staffing in these areas has been reduced as part of ongoing efficiencies.

In the second exercise 405 offers were made, 316 of which were accepted. The third exercise is currently in progress. To date 1,287 offers have been made to applicants, with a deadline for acceptance of 31 March 2011.

Housing Benefit

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single people aged between 25 and 34 are claiming the one bedroom local housing allowance rate in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* broad rental market area. [50270]

Steve Webb: The Department published the 'Two Year Review of the Local Housing Allowance' in February 2011, which includes the current caseload proportions claiming the one bedroom local housing allowance rate, in figure 2.11. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

The Department plans to publish an Equality Impact Assessment for the shared accommodation rate changes within the next two months, to accompany the draft regulations. This will contain estimates of the numbers of single housing benefit claimants between the ages of 25 and 34 who will be affected by these changes.

Housing Benefit: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much housing benefit was paid to claimants in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the level of such payments. [51267]

Steve Webb: Final housing benefit expenditure data for 2010-11 are currently unavailable, and information on expenditure at a parliamentary constituency level is not held.

In 2009-10, total housing benefit expenditure in the North Lanarkshire local authority was £100.6 million. If its share of national spending remained constant, North Lanarkshire would pay out around £109 million in housing benefit in 2010-11. These figures are based on our Budget 2011 housing benefit expenditure forecasts.

A breakdown of 2009-10 housing benefit expenditure can be found at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2010.xls

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fraud

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has recovered from payments of fraudulent claims for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance in each of the last two years. [51336]

Chris Grayling: Details of recoveries of overpayments classified as due to fraud for jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance are in the following table.

£

	Jobseeker's allowance	*Employment and support allowance*[1]
2008-09	3,425,831	0
2009-10	3,621,776	607
2010-11[2]	3,435,008	12,941

[1] Low recovery rates reflect the fact that ESA is a relatively recent benefit (introduced in October 2008) and that fraud debts can only be classified as such following lengthy investigations which result in a conviction or admission of the offence.

[2] April 2010 to February 2011 inclusive.

Source:

The figures provided are from Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system and are subject to rounding. The figures are Management Information (MI) collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

In cases where the customer has been overpaid but not been convicted or admitted the offence, the debt will be classified as customer error, and debt recovery pursued as such.

The total recovered from overpayments of all benefits and pensions that arose due to fraud or customer error are listed in the following table.

	£ million
2008-09	193.2
2009-10	205.1

Source:

The figures provided are from Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system and are subject to rounding. The figures are Management Information (MI) collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

Pensioners: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Northern Ireland he estimates are affected by the administrative error identified by the National Pension Centre concerning the additional pension component of the state pension. [50845]

Steve Webb: This is a matter for the Social Security Agency in Northern Ireland.

Pensions

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the nature is of the administrative error that the National Pension Centre has identified concerning the additional pension component of the State Pension. [50846]

Steve Webb: Work is being carried out to correct errors in the calculation of additional state pension identified as part of the Cabinet Office investigation into the incorrect indexation of guaranteed minimum pensions in Public Sector Pension schemes. Our conclusion is that the errors which affect payments in Great Britain and Northern Ireland have arisen due to a wide variety of reasons and there is no single causal factor.

Pensions: Females

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women who will have their state pension age increased by 18 months or more as a result of his proposed change in the state pension age for women. [49643]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the number of women affected by the proposed changes to the state pension age were published in the equality impact assessment that accompanied the Pensions Bill 2011. Around 300,000 women in Great Britain, born between 6 December 1953 and 5 October 1954 will have their state pension age increased by 18 months or longer.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average monetary value of pension payments which will not be paid to women born between December 1953 and October 1954 as a result of his proposed change in the state pension age for women. [49644]

Steve Webb: The effect of these changes is complex and will vary significantly from person to person. Moreover, because of the revision in life expectancy projections, these women will, on average, be getting their state pension for about the same length of time (24 years), and will be receiving around the same amount of state pension over their lifetime, as the previous life expectancy projections implied under a lower state pension age.

Many of these women will remain in employment, and could therefore benefit from additional earnings and from additional accrual of pension rights. Government will also be supporting those unable to remain in employment through in-work benefits.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether advice and information on Sure Start maternity grants for second and third children is still being provided to eligible mothers. [51077]

Maria Miller: Advice and information on Sure Start maternity grants remain available to eligible mothers for second or subsequent children, and DWP leaflets have been updated to reflect the recent changes to the eligibility conditions.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in respect of second and third children in *(a)* March 2011 and *(b)* March 2010. [51078]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. We are not able to identify if an award for a Sure Start maternity grant has been made in respect of a second or third child.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Poole constituency have been in receipt of out-of-work benefits for *(a)* more than one year and *(b)* more than five years. [50549]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given in the following table.

Claimants of out-of-work benefits by duration in Poole parliamentary constituency, August 2010

	JSA	*ESA and incapacity benefits*	*IS/PC*
All durations	1,270	3,200	1,230
Duration of up to one year	1,090	530	420
Duration of one year up to five years	180	880	590
Duration of over five years	[1]—	1,790	210

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example, a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseeker's allowance would appear in "jobseeker", not in "disabled".
3. Out-of-work benefits are:

JSA—claimants of jobseeker's allowance.

ESA and incapacity benefits—claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance/employment and support allowance.

IS/PC—claimants of income support (and males age 60 to 64 claiming pension credit) that are not also claiming IB/SDA.

4. Durations shown are the longest claim duration of the benefits of interest.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in what proportion of the National Benefit Fraud Hotline cases closed in each of the last five years *(a)* claims were found to be fraudulent, *(b)* claimants were found to be claiming erroneously and *(c)* callers were found to be mendacious; [49414]

(2) how many open cases the National Benefit Fraud Hotline has in the *(a)* fraud investigation service and *(b)* customer compliance unit; and how many cases it has closed in each of the last five years. [49416]

Chris Grayling: The number of National Benefit Fraud Hotline cases open at the end of February 2011 was as follows:

	Number
Fraud Investigation Service	22,554
Customer Compliance	27,567

Information is not available from 2005-07. Information from 2007-08 is incomplete due to administrative changes.

The following table provides available information relating to the number of National Benefit Fraud Hotline cases closed in the last three years which resulted in a fraud sanction being applied or an error being corrected.

	Total number of National Benefit Fraud Hotline cases closed by Fraud Investigation Service	*Total number of these cases receiving a sanction*	*Proportion (%)*	*Total number of National Benefit Fraud Hotline cases closed by Customer Compliance*	*Total number of these cases where error found*	*Proportion (%)*
2007-08	5,082	851	17	9,932	4,404	44
2008-09	23,873	4190	18	54,991	9,146	17
2009-10	27,299	3360	12	60,105	8,053	15

Notes:

Information has been extracted from the Fraud Referral and Interventions Management Systems (FRAIMS).

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole figure.

The Department is not in a position to judge whether members of the public make mendacious calls to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline and therefore does not collect information which would enable it to establish such cases.

Social Security Benefits: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much benefit was paid to claimants in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the level of payments in 2011-12. [51260]

Chris Grayling: Benefit expenditure data for 2010-11 and forecasts for 2011-12 are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Benefit expenditure for Motherwell and Wishaw parliamentary constituency in 2009-10 is shown in the following table for all benefit data that are available at parliamentary constituency level:

Motherwell and Wishaw constituency expenditure

2009-10	*£ million*
Attendance allowance	11.6
Bereavement benefit/widow's benefit	1.1
Carer's allowance	3.1
Disability living allowance	28.6
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	19.4
Income support	18.4
Jobseeker's allowance	8.3
Pension credit	18.8
State pension	94.6
Winter fuel payments	4.0
Employment and support allowance	3.2
Total expenditure	211.0

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 100,000.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Tables containing benefit expenditure by benefit, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Unemployment Benefits

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were in receipt of out-of-work benefits for more than *(a)* one and *(b)* five years on the latest date for which figures are available. [50849]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

Claimants of out of work benefits by duration in Bexley Heath and Crayford parliamentary constituency—August 2010

	JSA	*ESA and incapacity benefits*	*IS/PC*
All durations	1,750	2,770	1,630
Duration of up to 1 year	1,460	510	440
Duration of 1 year up to 5 years	280	800	740
Duration of over 5 years	10	1,450	450

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest ten and totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable.
A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible.
For example, a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseeker's allowance would appear in "Job Seeker", not in "Disabled".
3. Out of work benefits are:
JSA—claimants of jobseeker's allowance.
ESA and incapacity benefits—claimants of Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance/employment and support allowance.
IS/PC—claimants of income support (and males age 60-64 claiming pension credit) that are not also claiming IB/SDA.
4. Durations shown are the longest claim duration of the benefits of interest.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment: North East England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of workless households in *(a)* the north east, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency which will no longer be workless following implementation of his proposed welfare reforms. [47592]

Chris Grayling: The Government have a broad range of measures designed to help people into work, such as 'Get Britain Working', the Work programme and universal credit. As set out in the White Paper 'Universal Credit: Welfare that Works', we estimate that universal credit will reduce the number of workless households by about 300,000.

We do not have separate estimates of the impact on worklessness by region and constituency.

Universal Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, if he will estimate the number of families with annual incomes between *(a)* £16,000 and £17,000, *(b)* £17,000 and £18,000, *(c)* £18,000 and £19,000, *(d)* £19,000 and £20,000, *(e)* £20,000 and £21,000, *(f)* £21,000 and £22,000, *(g)* £22,000 and £23,000 and *(h)* £23,000 and £24,000 which will have (i) a lower and (ii) a higher entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state; and what the average change in incomes will be for families in each group attributable to the change in entitlement. [49820]

Chris Grayling: The Department is unable to provide the information for the requested breakdowns due to small sample sizes. However, the following table provides the estimates, using the Department's policy simulation model, of the number of families that will have (i) a lower entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state and the average change in entitlement for families in larger income groups. Income is defined as income net of tax.

Annual income	*(i) Number that have a lower entitlement under universal credit*	*Average weekly change in entitlement (£)*
£16,000 up to £20,000	200,000	-13
£20,000 to up £24,000	200,000	-20
Total	400,000	-19

Note:
The caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

The following table provides the estimates, using the Department's policy simulation model, of the number of families that will have (ii) a higher entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state and the average change in entitlement for families in larger income groups. Income is defined as income net of tax.

Annual income	*(ii) Number that have a higher entitlement under universal credit*	*Average weekly change in entitlement (£)*
£16,000 up to £20,000	400,000	28
£20,000 to up £24,000	600,000	24
Total	900,000	25

Note:
The caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, in how many families with savings *(a)* between £16,000 and £20,000, *(b)* between £20,000 and £25,000, *(c)* between £25,000 and £30,000 and *(d)* £30,000 and above will have a lower entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state; and what the average loss in incomes will be for families in each group attributable to this lower entitlement. [49821]

Chris Grayling: The Department is unable to provide the information for the requested breakdowns due to small sample sizes. However, the following table provides the estimates, using the Department's Policy Simulation Model, of the number of families that will have a lower entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state and the average change in entitlement for families in larger savings groups.

Savings	*Number that have a lower entitlement under universal credit*	*Average weekly change in entitlement (£)*
£16,000 up to £30,000	[1]—	[1]—
£30,000 and above	100,000	-49
Total	100,000	-52

[1] Denotes a caseload of less than 50,000. Average weekly change in entitlement cannot be provided due to small caseload sizes.

Note:

The caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, how many families with savings between *(a)* £6,000 and £7,000, *(b)* £7,000 and £8,000, *(c)* £8,000 and £9,000, *(d)* £9,000 and £10,000, *(e)* £10,000 and £11,000, *(f)* £11,000 and £12,000, *(g)* £12,000 and £13,000, *(h)* £13,0000 and £14,000, *(i)* £14,000 and £15,000 and *(j)* £15,000 and £16,000 will have (i) a lower and (ii) a higher entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state; and what the average change in income will be for families in each group attributable to the change in entitlement. [49822]

Chris Grayling: The Department is unable to provide the information for the requested breakdowns due to small sample sizes. However, the following table provides the estimates, using the Department's policy simulation model, of the number of families that will have (i) a lower entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state and the average change in entitlement for families in larger savings group.

Savings	*(i) Number that have a lower entitlement under universal credit*	*Average weekly change in entitlement (£)*
£6,000 up to £11,000	100,000	-14
£11,000 up to £16,000	100,000	-27
Total	100,000	-19

Note:

The caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

The following table provides the estimates, using the Department's policy simulation model, of the number of families that will have (ii) a higher entitlement under universal credit operating in the steady state and the average change in entitlement for families in larger savings group.

Savings	*(ii) Number that have a higher entitlement under universal credit*	*Average weekly change in entitlement (£)*
£6,000 up to £11,000	100,000	20
£11,000 to up £16,000	[1]—	[1]—
Total	100,000	21

[1] Denotes a caseload of less than 50,000. Average weekly change in entitlement can not be provided due to small caseload sizes.

Note:

The caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Winter Fuel Payments

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of provision of winter fuel allowance to those *(a)* aged 60 to 79 at the rate of (i) £200 and (ii) £250 per year and *(b)* aged 80 or over at the rate of (A) £300 and (B) £400 per year in (1) Brighton Pavilion constituency and (2) the city of Brighton and Hove in each of the next four calendar years. [50241]

Steve Webb: The information is not available as requested. Forecasts of winter fuel payments are made on financial years rather than calendar years.

The information that is available is in the following tables:

Brighton Pavilion constituency

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ millions, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200 / £300	79 and under	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
	80 and over	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
	All ages	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
£250 / £400	79 and under	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8
	80 and over	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
	All ages	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0

Brighton and Hove local authority

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ millions, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200 / £300	79 and under	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
	80 and over	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1
	All ages	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
£250 / £400	79 and under	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3

Brighton and Hove local authority

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ millions, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
	80 and over	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1
	All ages	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5

Notes:

1. Expenditure on winter fuel payments is rounded to the nearest £100,000. Age breakdowns may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Expenditure on the "79 and under" age group includes payments to people over women's state pension age, which is increasing from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2018. People under women's state pension age (both men and women) are not eligible for winter fuel payments.
3. Projections of winter fuel payments on a constituency and local authority level use the latest administrative data to apportion total Great Britain (GB) expenditure over the requested geography. Therefore they do not allow for potentially different trends between these geographical units and Great Britain overall.
4. GB forecasts of winter fuel payments are consistent with Budget 2011 forecasts.

Source:

Budget 2011 forecasts and projections based on DWP statistical data.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change in expenditure he expects to result from implementation of his proposed changes to winter fuel payments in the winter 2011-12. [50264]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments for winter 2011-12 will be £200 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over, exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government.

An additional temporary amount of winter fuel payment was paid for the last three winters, taking the rates to £250 for households with someone who had reached women's state pension age and was under 80, and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

It is estimated that making winter fuel payments in 2011-12 as planned would cost around £590 million less than if the additional amounts were to continue.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department of retaining the winter fuel payment at the enhanced rate for households in receipt of pension credit in the winter of 2011-12. [50296]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments for winter 2011-12 will be £200 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over, exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government.

An additional temporary amount of winter fuel payment was paid for the last three winters, taking the rates to £250 for households with someone who had reached women's state pension age and was under 80, and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

It is estimated that making the additional payment on 2011-12 to households that are in receipt of pension credit would increase the winter fuel payment expenditure by around £160 million.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure pensioners are aware of the planned withdrawal of the top-up payment to the winter fuel allowance. [50475]

Steve Webb: There is no change to the standard rate of winter fuel payment. The previous Government always made it clear that the additional amount of £50 or £100 was a temporary increase to the winter fuel payment for winter 2010-11.

Details of the eligibility criteria and the payment rates can be found on the Directgov website. Everybody who is due to receive a winter fuel payment will get a letter advising them when their payment is being made and how much it is.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out in winter fuel allowances awarded to residents of Clwyd South constituency in the winter of 2010-11; and what forecast he has made of the equivalent figure in 2011-12. [50476]

Steve Webb: Actual expenditure on winter fuel payments for 2010-11 is not yet available. In 2009-10, the last year for which information is available, expenditure on winter fuel payments in Clwyd South constituency was £3.4 million.

Forecasts for benefit expenditure are not produced below Great Britain level. However, if the Clwyd South share of spending in 2009-10 was maintained in 2010-11 and 2011-12, spending would be £3.4 million and £2.6 million respectively.

Notes:

(1) Expenditure has been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand pounds.

(2) We do not forecast winter fuel payment expenditure at a constituency level. Projections of winter fuel payments at this level use the latest administrative data to apportion forecast total winter fuel payment expenditure over the requested area.

(3) An additional temporary amount of winter fuel payment was paid in 2009-10 and 2010-11, providing rates of £250 for households with someone who had reached women's state pension age and was under 80, and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over. Winter fuel payments for 2011-12 will be £200 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over, as budgeted for by the previous Government, decreasing winter fuel payment expenditure for this year compared to the previous years.

Source:

Budget 2011 forecasts and DWP statistical data.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people over the age of 80 and resident in Clwyd South constituency received a winter fuel allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available; [50477]

(2) how many pensioners resident in Clwyd South constituency received winter fuel allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available. [50480]

Steve Webb: The information is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-10 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender". This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency over the age of 80 received winter fuel allowance payments in the latest period for which figures are available. [50826]

Steve Webb: The information is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-10 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender". This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page-wfp.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely impact of proposed changes to winter fuel payments on the future level of excess winter deaths; and if he will make a statement. [51040]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments are one part of the overall Government programme to support vulnerable groups in winter. For winter 2011-12, most people who have reached women's state pension age will receive a winter fuel payment of either £200 or £300 depending on their household circumstances. The winter fuel payment remains a significant contribution to an older person's winter fuel costs.

Targeted help for vulnerable groups is provided through cold weather payments, which the coalition Government have permanently increased from £8.50 a week to £25 a week. Cold weather payments provide real help to those most vulnerable to the cold i.e. disabled adults and children, the elderly and families with children under five who are in receipt of an income-related benefit. They are paid when the average temperature where a customer lives is 0° C or below for seven consecutive days. This winter, over 17 million cold weather payments have been paid in Great Britain, worth an estimated £430 million.

In addition, subject to parliamentary approval, from winter 2011-12 some of the poorest pensioners would get direct assistance with their energy costs through a rebate off their electricity bills under the warm home discount scheme. Rebates would be at least £120.

The programme of support for vulnerable groups also includes the annual seasonal influenza vaccination programme, which offers free flu jabs to people most at risk from potentially life-threatening complications of flu. The Government ran a new website service, Winter Watch, as well as its annual Keep Warm Keep Well campaign for 2010/11, to provide advice on staying warm over the winter and staying in touch with people who may be vulnerable during cold weather, including the elderly, in order to reduce illness and deaths.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Warrington North constituency aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 80 years receive winter fuel allowance. [50985]

Steve Webb: The information is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-10 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender". This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on improvements to armed forces' accommodation *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Poole constituency in each year since 2005. [50491]

Mr Robathan: Under a £1.4 billion programme, some 60,000 new or improved single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces are due to be delivered between 2003 and 2013, subject to funding considerations. As the programme is being delivered through various initiatives across the Department (including private finance initiative projects where SLA improvements are only one element of the work), exact expenditure by year cannot be separately identified without disproportionate effort and cost.

The following has been spent in each of the last five financial years upgrading and improving service family accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain:

Financial year	*Spend £ million*
2005-06	32.4
2006-07	14.7
2007-08	64
2008-09	56.1
2009-10	76.7

In the Poole constituency, the following was spent on new or improved SLA at Royal Marines Poole in each of the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Spend in £ thousands*
2005-06	3,201
2006-07	754
2007-08	433
2008-09	81
2009-10	92

Some £550,000 was spent on bathroom and heating improvements to 68 SFA properties in the Poole constituency in the financial year 2009-10. No similar expenditure was incurred in the four preceding years.

Departmental Contracts

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of his Department's contracts by *(a)* value and *(b)* number were placed (i) directly and (ii) through sub-contracts with small and medium-sized enterprises in each year since 2005; [50447]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the prime defence contractors implement Government proposals that 25 per cent. of contracts should be placed with small and medium-sized enterprises. [50448]

Peter Luff: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play an essential role in defence as prime contractors, subcontractors and lower-tier suppliers, and we fully recognise and value the contribution that SMEs make at all levels.

Approximately 95% of Ministry of Defence (MOD) contracts are managed through our central contract processes. These define a SME as a company with fewer than 250 employees. The following table shows the number of contracts let directly by MOD to SMEs in each year since the financial year 2005-06.

Year ending 31 March	*Proportion of procurement contracts awarded to SMEs (%)*	*Proportion by value of procurement contracts awarded to SMEs (%)*
2005-06	47	10
2006-07	46	3

Year ending 31 March	*Proportion of procurement contracts awarded to SMEs (%)*	*Proportion by value of procurement contracts awarded to SMEs (%)*
2007-08	46	4
2008-09	48	5
2009-10	45	10

The smaller proportion of contracts by value in the three years from 2006-07 reflects the award of a few very large contracts to non-SMEs. However, these large contracts will themselves have generated significant business for SMEs as subcontractors. Indeed, the figures shown above are all under-representative of the total number of contracts placed with SMEs throughout the supply chain.

The December 2010 Green Paper entitled "Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security" includes a section which discusses ways in which the MOD might make procurement easier and improve access to defence contract opportunities for SMEs at both prime and subcontract level. The three-month consultation was completed on 31 March 2011 and we are taking account of views received in formulating a White Paper, which will be published later this year and set out the changes we intend to introduce.

But we are not waiting for this to deepen engagement with SMEs. We are already taking effective steps to bring innovative ideas from SMEs into defence through the Centre for Defence Enterprise. The first meeting of a new forum for SMEs under the auspices of the Defence Suppliers Forum is also being held this week.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies, interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42887]

Mr Robathan: This information could be provided for the Department as a whole only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has a Welsh language scheme which obliges us to provide interpretation facilities should there be a requirement. The provision of these facilities is the responsibility of the areas organising the events and therefore this information is not held centrally.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a Ministerial car since May 2010. [50189]

Mr Robathan: As set out in the ministerial code, Ministers are permitted to use an official car for official business and for journeys between home and office, within reasonable distance of London, where they would normally be carrying classified papers on which they would be working. The number of such journeys is set out in the following table:

Minister	*Date last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity*	*Number of times travelled to own constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010*
Secretary of State for Defence[1] (Dr Liam Fox)	n/a	n/a
Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey)	30 March 2011	0
Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff)	28 March 2011	10
Minister for International Security Strategy (Gerald Howarth)	30 March 2011	5
Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Andrew Robathan)	23 March 2011	0
Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Lord Astor of Hever)	25 March 2011	0

[1] The Metropolitan police orchestrate such travel for the Secretary of State for Defence.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50167]

Mr Robathan: None of the Ministry of Defence's ministerial team have been issued with either an Oyster card or a monthly or annual travel card that is paid for by the Department.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff have applied for early release as part of the reduction of civil service numbers in his Department. [50885]

Mr Robathan: The Department launched a voluntary early release scheme on 28 February with a target of releasing 4,000 staff by 31 March 2012. The total number of applications received by the closing date was 13,832.

Departmental Secondment

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of his Department have been *(a)* seconded and *(b)* attached or on loan to Defence Equipment and Support project teams in its prime contractors since 2005. [50446]

Peter Luff: According to the Ministry of Defence's human resources system, 13 staff from Defence Equipment and Support have had secondments with the private sector since 2008; four staff are currently on secondment. Those secondments began in the following years:

	Number
2008	1
2009	9
2010	3
2011	0

Information about numbers on secondment was not held centrally before December 2007.

Information is not held centrally about whether the companies to which these secondments were made were prime contractors. I will write to the hon. Gentleman with this information.

Ex-servicemen: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provides to veterans in Poole constituency. [50490]

Mr Robathan: The Government provide a comprehensive programme of support for ex-service personnel across the UK. This includes: an excellent resettlement package for service personnel returning to civilian life; high-quality pension and compensation schemes; and measures to meet veterans' health and welfare needs. Our commitment to rebuilding the armed forces covenant reinforces this and will set the tone for Government policy aimed at improving the support available for the armed forces community. Recent initiatives include providing improved support for ex-service personnel to study at university and creating 'Troops to Teachers', a programme to recruit ex-service personnel into the teaching profession, and measures to improve services for those who may suffer from mental health problems.

Libya

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of any potential relationship between the armed opposition to the Libyan Government and combatants who have previously fought against coalition forces in Iraq; [50896]

(2) what assessment he has made of any potential relationship between the armed opposition to the Libyan Government and terrorist groups proscribed *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas; [50897]

(3) what assessment he has made of any potential relationship between the armed opposition to the Libyan Government and persons who *(a)* are fighting and *(b)* have previously fought against NATO forces in Afghanistan. [50898]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

We are in dialogue with the Interim National Council (INC) and other elements of the opposition inside and outside Libya. We are convinced that political reform in Libya is necessary, that the Gaddafi regime has lost all legitimacy, and that the Libyan people have clearly indicated their desire for change. But the form of any political settlement is for the Libyan people themselves to decide. We support the efforts of the INC to prepare for a more democratic and accountable government in Libya. Their announcement of a political programme was an important first step in that process.

We have no details of the involvement in the Libyan internal opposition movement of individuals with a background in violent political activities or international terrorism in Afghanistan or Iraq, or of membership of proscribed terrorist organisations. We have been clear that it is essential that the Libyan opposition ensure that they are not infiltrated by al-Qaeda. It is clear from our engagement with the INC that that they are sincere in their wish for an inclusive, democratic Libya which rejects extremism, as shown by their manifesto and public statements rejecting extremist ideas, and committing to combating them in all circumstances and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions on counter-terrorism.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of depleted uranium weapons; and how that policy *(a)* is applied to and *(b)* will apply in operations in Libya. [51481]

Dr Fox: The Government's policy is that depleted uranium (DU) can be used within weapons. It is not prohibited under current or likely future international agreements. The UK's armed forces use all munitions in accordance with international humanitarian law. It would be quite wrong to deny our serving personnel a legitimate and effective capability.

The only DU munition in service with our armed forces is the Charm 3 antitank round fired from the Challenger 2 tank. With no deployed ground forces it follows that none of the weapons supplied to UK armed forces for uses over Libya contain DU.

Other nations may choose to use DU munitions fired from aircraft guns against armoured targets if they have that capability but that is a choice for them alone to make.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether reactors on Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarines in service have *(a)* systems for safety injection of coolant into the reactor pressure vessel head and *(b)* passive core cooling systems; [50634]

(2) what advice he has received from the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator on the need for *(a)* systems for safety injection of coolant into the reactor pressure vessel head and *(b)* passive core cooling systems on submarine reactors in order to reduce risks to the level of as low as reasonably practicable; [50635]

(3) if he will place in the Library an unredacted copy of the note of 6 November 2009 entitled Safety Regulators' advice on the selection of the propulsion plant in support of the future deterrent review; [50729]

(4) what reasons the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator gave for his assessment on the adequacy of benchmarked relevant good practices of UK submarine reactor designs in respect of *(a)* the control of submarine depth and *(b)* a loss of coolant accident. [50730]

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the assessment of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator on *(a)* loss of depth control and *(b)* loss of coolant accidents on Vanguard-class submarines. [51177]

Peter Luff: All submarines in service with the Royal Navy have passive core cooling capability and the ability to add coolant into the reactor pressure vessel if necessary.

The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR)'s assessment and advice was given in the document 'Safety Regulators' advice on the selection of the propulsion plant in support of the future deterrent review'.

Some information within this document has been withheld because its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces; prejudice relations between the UK and another state and prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. For these reasons I do not intend to release an un-redacted copy. A redacted copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

The standards set for the safety of nuclear reactors are extremely high, and DNSR's assessment is that they are met by all the reactors used by the Royal Navy. Nevertheless, we are always seeking to better our safety performance, and improvements are made where necessary and practicable.

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on which occasions each Minister of State in his Department was present to welcome returning submariners following a tour of duty of a Vanguard-class submarine in each year between 1996 and 2000; [50262]

(2) on which occasions each Minister of State in his Department was present to welcome submariners returning to port following a tour of duty of a Vanguard-class submarine in each year from 2001 to 2004. [50438]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) on 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 678W. Centralised records have only been held since December 2004 and information prior to then could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION

Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any grants or contracts have been awarded to external bodies to assist schools seeking to convert to academy status since May 2010. [38485]

Michael Gove *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* I can confirm that since May 2010, grants and contracts have been awarded to external bodies to assist the development of sponsored academies which generally replace underperforming schools.

Contracts are awarded through an established framework to procure project management and educational services needed by academies in their pre-opening development phase. The value of contracts varies according to the needs of the project.

Grant funding can be paid to academy trusts who undertake themselves the pre-opening project management and educational services needed by academy projects rather than appoint a commercial project management company.

Since May 2010, 20 projects have been approved and therefore eligible for funding. Of those, grant payments have been made to one project and contracts entered into for five totalling £2,358,766.

Academies: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which academy schools have been assessed as having received an overpayment of grant; and what the amount concerned was in each such case.

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* Eight academies have been assessed as having received an overpayment of grant in the past. The details are in the following table:

Academy	*Over the academic years*	*Overpayment (£)*
Westminster Academy	2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10	1,721,328
Paddington Academy	2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10	2,003,481
Pimlico Academy	2008/09, 2009/10	1,999,587
City Academy, Norwich	2009/10	479,330
Marlowe Academy, Kent	2006/07, 2007/08	984,000
Dixons City Academy, Bradford	2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08	720,000
Capital City Academy, Willesden	2007/08, 2008/09	308,000
Langley Academy, Berkshire	2008/09	482,000

The overpayments were caused by a mix of administrative errors in relation to the calculation of their grant, incorrect information from the academy or error in the local authority budget statement which forms the basis of the grant calculation. In each case action has been taken to manage the overpayment that reflects the overall financial position of the academy.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what local authority central spend equivalent grant allocation has been made to each academy school for 2011-12. [38028]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* This information is not currently available for all academies. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) is currently in the process of calculating allocations for academies for academic year 2011/12.

The table showing the local authority central spend equivalent grant (LACSEG), allocations for those academies that have received final funding letters which YPLA started to issue from 29 March has been placed in the House Libraries. These academies have until the end of April to challenge the grant allocation and the basis on which it is calculated.

The remaining grant allocations will be dispatched by YPLA before the end of May 2011. A full breakdown of LACSEG allocations for academy schools in academic year 2011/12 will be available in August 2012. This will include allocations for the remaining academy schools due to convert or open in the current academic year as well as those opening or converting in 2011/12.

Apprentices

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase the number of apprenticeship places for 16 to 18-year-olds. [51001]

Mr Hayes: In the 16-19 Funding Statement, published in December 2010, we increased funding for 16-18 apprenticeships in order to have sufficient funding in place to have 131,200 apprentice starts in 2010/11 and 133,500 in 2011/12 (academic years). This represents significant growth in the programme; in 2009/10, 116,800 16 to 18-year-olds started apprenticeship frameworks.

Our investment in future years will reflect the value we place on apprenticeships as a key route for Raising the Participation Age for learning, due to commence in 2013.

Apprentices: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 16 to 18 years beginning apprenticeships in the *(a)* London borough of Camden and *(b)* London borough of Brent in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [38419]

Mr Hayes: The Government are strongly committed to investment in apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds, which is why we have an ambitious planning assumption of 131,000 apprenticeships for 2010/11 which allows for significant growth. The apprenticeship budget for the 2010-11 financial year is £780 million for 16 to 18-year-olds.

We want to see continued growth in the number of young people undertaking an apprenticeship, which is why funding for 16-18 apprenticeships will increase to £799 million in 2011-12, £19 million more than for 2010-11. This will provide funding for more than 133,000 starts for 16 to 18-year-olds.

The Apprenticeships Programme is demand led. Government do not plan apprenticeship places by local authority area. Government provide funding to the Skills Funding Agency on a national basis and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system. The National Apprenticeship Service works with local providers and employers in the London borough of Camden and the London borough of Brent to make apprenticeship places available where there is demand.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with Liverpool city council on progress on projects under the Building Schools for the Future programme in Liverpool. [17722]

Michael Gove *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* On 28 July 2010 the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools, my noble Friend (Lord Hill) met councillors Joe Anderson and Paula Keaveney, accompanied by the hon. Members for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle), for Liverpool, West Derby (Stephen Twigg) and for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger). They discussed options for capital investment in Liverpool's secondary schools. On 6 August 2010, Enterprise South Liverpool Academy was among those for which the Secretary of State announced allocations of capital. The De La Salle Academy was notified of its capital allocation on 20 December 2010.

On 28 March 2011, the Minister for Schools, the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb), visited St John Bosco School accompanied by councillor Joe Anderson and the hon. Member for Liverpool, West Derby to observe the issues requiring investment and hear about proposals for addressing these issues.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed bursary scheme on the number of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds remaining in education; and if he will make a statement. [50616]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to ensuring that all young people continue in education or training post-16. We are investing nearly £15 million in providing a bursary of £1,200 a year to the most vulnerable young people, such as those in care and those receiving income support—more than they would have received under the old system. The remainder of the 16-19 Bursary Fund—some £165 million a year—will go into discretionary funds that schools and colleges can use in ways that best fit the circumstances and needs of their students, for example, to provide help with books, meals, transport or other course-related costs.

While actual payments will reflect need, by way of illustration the 16-19 Bursary Fund is sufficient to provide a bursary of £800 a year to 15% of all 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education and training—more than covering those who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11.

A full equality impact assessment has been published and is available on the Department's website at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/1/ema%20replacement%20scheme.pdf

A copy has also been placed in the House Libraries.

Children's Centres

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Sure Start places were provided in *(a)* Brighton Pavilion constituency, *(b)* the Brighton and Hove area and *(c)* England in 2009-10; and how many such places he expects to be provided in 2010-11. [49370]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education collects data on the number of Sure Start Children's Centres in each local authority area in England but does not routinely collect data on the number of places provided in each centre. In the Brighton and Hove city council area, 15 children's centres are recorded on the Department for Education's database, providing access to services for around 15,000 children under five and their families. Figures are not available for the Brighton Pavilion constituency. As at 31 March 2010, there were 3,614 children's centres in England and at 22 March 2011 data shows there were 3,621.

The Government wants to retain a network of children's centres, accessible to all families but focused on those in greatest need. It is for local authorities, in consultation with local communities to determine the most effective way of delivering future services to meet local need. Local authorities continue to have a duty under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient provision of children's centres so far as is reasonably practicable, and to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the change in the number of Sure Start children's centres since May 2010. [50931]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education collects data from local authorities on number of Sure Start Children's Centres in each local authority area in England. As at 31 May 2010, data show there were 3,631 Sure Start Children's Centres in England. As at 22 March 2011, data show there were 3,621 Sure Start Children's Centres in England.

It is for local authorities, in consultation with local communities, to determine the most effective way of delivering children's centre services to meet local need. Local authorities continue to have duties under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient provision of children's centres, so far as is reasonably practicable, and to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres.

Consultants

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for how many hours consultancy work his Department paid Michael Wilkins in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [50505]

Tim Loughton: The Department's financial records show that the Department did not make any payments for consultancy hours to Michael Wilkins in the last 12 months, nor does the Department hold any information for a Michael Wilkins on its central contracts database.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010. [42304]

Tim Loughton: The actual number of staff who have permanently left the Department's employ since 31 May 2010 is 207 (195.85 FTE). The total number of people who have left the Department and its arm's length bodies is set out in the following table:

	Staff numbers	
Name	*May 2010*	*March 2011*
Department for Education	2,622	2,605
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	264	9
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	2,098	1,997
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	210	164
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)	216	175
National College	367	326
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	26	27
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)	162	163
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	1,945	1,615
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	186	168
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	502	363
School Food Trust (SFT)	74	72
Training and Development Agency (TDA)	311	311
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	561	534
Total	9,544	8,529

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42401]

Tim Loughton: The number of staff employed by the Department (as at 1 May 2010) was 2,646 (2,526.8 FTE).

Similar information from May 2010 for the actual number of staff working for the Department's arm's length bodies is set out in the following table. Information for full-time equivalent staff is not yet available, but will be placed in the House of Commons Library when published:

Name	*Staff numbers May 2010*
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	264
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	2,098
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	210
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)	216
National College	367
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	26
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)	162
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	1,945
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	186
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	502
School Food Trust (SFT)	74
Training and Development Agency (TDA)	311
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	561
Total	6,922

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50190]

Tim Loughton: The following table shows the dates Ministers at the Department for Education last travelled in a ministerial car.

Minister	*Date*
Michael Gove	29 March
Nick Gibb	29 March
Sarah Teather	29 March
Jonathan Hill	11 March
Tim Loughton	22 March

Information on the times and dates each minister travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Ministers only have a ministerial car when they are travelling in an official capacity and have departmental work, to do. However, all Ministers', travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel as set out in the Ministerial Code. Section 10 of the Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers, and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on hospitality since May 2010. [35819]

Tim Loughton: From May 2010 to February 2011 the Department has spent £3,257.44 on hospitality. The corresponding spend on hospitality from May 2009 to February 2010 was £6,612.37.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1009-11W, on departmental procurement, what process was used to determine the value of the contract with Professors Wiliam, Pollard and James for an expert panel for the National Curriculum review; and who was involved in the appointment process of the expert panel. [51329]

Mr Gibb: The decision to appoint Professors Wiliam, Pollard and James to the Expert Panel was taken on the advice of officials and Tim Oates, Chair of the Expert Panel. The value of their contracts was determined through a process of negotiation which secured a rate that represented good value for money for their services.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body. [48629]

Michael Gove: On 16 March 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) issued a written ministerial statement on progress with public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

Administrative savings from the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB) over the spending review period are estimated at £1.4 million.

The SSSNB is to be abolished because its remit to develop a national pay and conditions framework for school support staff does not fit well with the Government's priorities for greater flexibility and autonomy for schools.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50091]

Tim Loughton: The last time I travelled on the London underground while on Government business was 24 March 2011 and I have not travelled by bus. The Department holds no record of any other Minister travelling by either form of transport while on Government business.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50168]

Tim Loughton: No member of the ministerial team has been issued with either an Oyster card or any type of monthly or annual travel card.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50225]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows:

(a) The total invoiced expenditure on ministerial cars for the Department since May 2010 is £207,125.

(b) Information regarding the cost of ministerial rail travel is not recorded separately and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(c) No ministerial journeys have been made by public bus.

(d and e) Since May 2010, this Department is committed to publishing quarterly online information on all ministerial overseas travel, including cost. The published information can be viewed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a0065263ministers-quarterly-returns

The information for January to March 2011 will be published in due course.

Ministers in the Department for Education have not travelled on a commercial or private aircraft within the United Kingdom.

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on first class train travel in financial year 2009-10. [50562]

Tim Loughton: The Department spent £2,397,940 on first class train travel in the financial year 2009-10.

The data has been provided by the Department's contractor for travel booking, Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 411W, on the discretionary learner support fund: Poplar, on what date he plans to announce proposals for the replacement of the education maintenance allowance. [38102]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* On 28 March we announced a new £180 million bursary scheme which, from September 2011, will be targeted towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16, together with transitional arrangements to help some of those who are presently in receipt of EMA. We are currently consulting on our proposals.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what eligibility criteria he plans to put in place for eligibility for discretionary learner support for students attending *(a)* sixth form and *(b)* further education colleges; and whether such support will include (i) travelcards, (ii) meals at college and (iii) course-related equipment. [38417]

Michael Gove: On 28 March 2011 we announced the establishment of a new 16-19 Bursary Fund, worth £180 million a year. The most vulnerable young people—those in care, care leavers and young people in receipt of income support—will receive a bursary of £1,200 a year. Beyond this, schools, colleges and training providers will be able to use their discretion to award bursaries in ways that best fit the circumstances and needs of their students, for example, to provide help with transport, meals, books, or other course-related costs.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review his decision to end education maintenance allowance in the light of recent figures for youth unemployment. [41796]

Mr Gibb: Latest data from the Labour Force Survey (November-December 2010) show that the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) fell by 0.7 percentage points against the same quarter of 2009 to 8.5% (a fall equivalent to 15,000 young people). On 28 March 2011 we announced a new £180 million bursary scheme which, from September 2011, will be targeted towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16, together with transitional arrangements to help the majority of those who are presently in receipt of EMA. We are currently consulting on our proposals.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which 16 to 19-year-old students in *(a)* sixth form and *(b)* further education colleges who received education maintenance allowance he met in the course of development of his proposals for 16 to 19 student finance. [51345]

Mr Gibb: In developing the proposals for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund, Department for Education officials met a number of young people in receipt of EMA from sixth form colleges and further education colleges, in particular through discussions arranged by the National Union of Students, the National Association of Managers of Student Services and Platform 51.

In developing these proposals, we also took account of the work of the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), who, in his capacity of Advocate for Access to Education, has met groups of young people from sixth form colleges and further education colleges in a number of areas, including Merseyside, Southwark, Lambeth and Hampshire.

We are currently consulting on the new arrangements.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Blackpool

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students in Blackpool who were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in academic year 2010-11 who will be ineligible for the new Bursary scheme for students aged 16 to 19 in academic year 2012-13. [50902]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* The most vulnerable young people—whether or not they are currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA)—will be eligible in 2012/13 for a bursary of £1,200. Any other students who were in receipt of EMA in 2011/12 and are continuing in post-16 education or training for a third year in 2012/13 will be eligible to apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund in the third year of their studies. Decisions as to which students receive support will be made by schools, colleges and training providers.

Education: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the Blueprint drug education research programme. [50531]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* The Blueprint drug education research programme was a Home Office funded programme. Three research reports were published: the response of pupils and parents to the programme, a delivery report and a practitioner report. These are all available online. The final report was published in 2009.

A summary of the response of pupils and parents to the programme is available at the national archives website through the following link:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100419081707/http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/blueprint/blueprint-final-report-2009

The delivery and practitioner reports set out the key learning points for policy makers, practitioners and programme designers. These reports are available at the National Archives website through the following link:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100419081707/http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/blueprint/dpreports/?view=Standard&pubID=508900

These reports were considered by officials as part of the development of the national Drug Strategy published in December 2010.

Post-16 Education: Funding

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 65, on post-16 education funding, who carried out the opinion poll cited in support of his policy; on what date it was conducted; how many people were surveyed; if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* brief for and *(b)* results of the poll; and if he will make a statement. [50377]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* I can confirm that the opinion poll to which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, referred on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 65, was carried out by YouGov between 19 and 20 January 2011 from a sample of 1,860 adults. The survey results are shown in the following tables, and is available to view on the YouGov website:

http://today.yougov.co.uk/sites/today.yougov.co.uk/files/YG-Archives-Pol-YouGov-EMA-210111.pdf

Percentage

		Voting intention			*2010 Vote*			*Gender*		*Age*			
	Total	*Con*	*Lab*	*Lib Dem*	*Con*	*Lab*	*Lib Dem*	*Male*	*Female*	*18-24*	*25-39*	*40-59*	*60+*
Weighted Sample	1860	522	621	139	587	470	430	905	955	222	476	641	521
Unweighted Sample	1860	491	589	137	553	452	449	S71	939	132	436	778	514

Percentage

	Social grade		*Region*				
	AECI	*C2DE*	*London*	*Rest of South*	*Midlands/Wales*	*North*	*Scotland*
Weighted Sample	1043	787	239	609	395	454	101
Unweighted Sample	1211	6’19	244	S09	337	450	138

Education maintenance allowance (EMA) is a weekly allowance of up to £30 paid to young people from low income backgrounds between the ages of 16 and 19 if they stay in full time education. The Government have said they will abolish the EMA as part of their measures to cut the deficit and Instead replace it with more targeted help for the poorest students. Critics say this will deter young people from staying in education.

Do you support or oppose the abolition of the EMA?

		Voting intention			*2010 Vote*			*Gender*		*Age*			
	Total	*Con*	*Lab*	*Lib Dem*	*Con*	*Lab*	*Lib Dem*	*Male*	*Female*	*18-24*	*25-39*	*40-59*	*60+*
Support	41	65	21	42	60	19	38	43	38	45	43	37	42
Oppose	46	25	68	42	27	69	50	44	49	44	38	51	49
Don't know	13	10	10	16	12	11	12	13	13	10	19	12	10

	Social grade		*Region*				
	AECI	*C2DE*	*London*	*Rest of South*	*Midlands/Wales*	*North*	*Scotland*
Support	46	34	42	41	42	38	39
Oppose	41	53	47	45	42	51	47
Don't know	13	13	11	13	16	11	14

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 51-53, on post-16 education funding, what estimate he has made of the number of students *(a)* in the west midlands, *(b)* in Dudley borough and *(c)* enrolled at Dudley college who will be eligible for (i) the 16 to 19 bursary and (ii) the additional post-16 bursary of £1,200. [50809]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* We estimate that there are around 12,000 young people currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) who are in one of the groups that will, under the 16 to 19 bursary scheme, receive a bursary of £1,200 a year. It is not possible to break these data down by provider, local authority or region.

All students in full-time education or training will be eligible to apply for support from the 16 to 19 bursary fund. Decisions as to which students should receive support will be made by schools, colleges and training providers.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the administrative burden on *(a)* school sixth forms and *(b)* further education colleges of the operation of the new bursary scheme for students aged 16 to 19. [50903]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* Schools and colleges already administer discretionary learner support funding, and played a role in administering the education maintenance allowance. They will be allowed to use up to 5% of the 16 to 19 bursary fund to meet the costs of administering the scheme. We are currently consulting on the arrangements for the 16 to 19 bursary fund.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Association of Colleges, *(b)* the Association of School and College Leaders, *(c)* the 157 Group and *(d)* others on the administration of his Department's bursary scheme for students aged 16 to 19. [50904]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* We have held discussions with representatives of the Association of Colleges, the Association of School and College Leaders, the 157 Group and others on the proposals to replace the education maintenance allowance (EMA) since the announcement of its closure. Following the announcement of the new 16 to 19 bursary fund on 28 March 2011, we have launched a formal consultation, which will close on 20 May.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirements will be placed on training providers to report on the *(a)* number and *(b)* size of awards administered through discretionary funding for 16 to 19 education. [51060]

Mr Gibb: Currently training providers with an allocation of discretionary learner support funds are required to provide management information to the Young People's Learning Agency annually. We expect that this arrangement will continue for the 16 to 19 bursary fund.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions steps to identify those young people who do not stay in education and training due to financial barriers. [51062]

Mr Gibb: The responsibility for identifying those young people who are not in education, employment or training rests with local authorities. They work closely with Jobcentre Plus to ensure that such young people receive appropriate support to find employment or to re-engage in education or training.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to develop and issue national guidance for providers who will award 16-19 education discretionary funds. [51083]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency, which will be responsible for the operation of the new 16 to 19 bursary fund, will issue short, focused guidance to schools, colleges and training providers after the end of the formal consultation on the new arrangements.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that each young person who was in receipt of free school meals in year 11 and progresses to post-16 education between the ages of 16 to 19 will receive £800 in funding from discretionary learner support. [51086]

Mr Gibb: The most vulnerable young people—those in care, care leavers and young people in receipt of income support—will receive a bursary of at least £1,200 under the arrangements we announced on 28 March 2011. Schools, colleges and training providers will have discretion to award bursaries to other students, including those in receipt of free school meals in year 11, in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what timetable he has set for consultation on the award of payments through the new 16 to 19 education bursary and discretionary fund. [51341]

Mr Gibb: A formal consultation on arrangements for the 16 to 19 bursary fund, including the proposed transitional arrangements for young people currently in receipt of the education maintenance allowance (EMA), was launched on 28 March 2011. The consultation will close on 20 May 2011.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any of the funding for his Department's 16 to 19 education bursaries will come from departmental reserves. [51343]

Mr Gibb: We have always had money set aside within the Department for Education budget for 16 to 19 financial support. As part of the budget discussions we agreed a call on Treasury reserves for a minority of the funding for the new 16 to 19 bursary fund.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date he plans to inform education and training providers of the level of funding they will be allocated for discretionary learner support. [51346]

Mr Gibb: Allocations will be made to schools, colleges and training providers following the end of the formal consultation on the new arrangements, which closes on 20 May 2011.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information he plans to issue to young people on the new 16 to 19 student finance arrangements; and whether the cost of issuing such information will be met by his Department. [51347]

Mr Gibb: Information on the 16 to 19 bursary fund is currently available on the Department for Education website and on Directgov. We will consider what further communication may be necessary following the consultation on the new arrangements.

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/MoneyToLearn/EMA/

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport/a0064057/financial-support-for-learning

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which private training providers will have access to discretionary learner support funding. [51348]

Mr Gibb: Training providers who are funded by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) will have access to the 16 to 19 bursary fund, which replaces the discretionary learner support fund from September 2011.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of educational maintenance allowance who are not eligible for free school meals who will receive payments under his Department's new bursary scheme. [50614]

Mr Gibb: Around 320,000 young people will receive guaranteed support in 2011/12 as a result of the measures we announced on 28 March 2011. We do not hold data on how many of these young people are eligible for free school meals. Decisions as to how the remainder of the funding is distributed will be made by schools, colleges and training providers so we are not able to estimate how many young people will receive payments or what proportion of young people receiving a bursary will be eligible for free school meals.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average change in annual income attributable to the introduction of the bursary for recipients of educational maintenance allowance who are not eligible for free school meals between 2010-11 and 2011-12. [50615]

Mr Gibb: In 2009/10 (the latest year for which full figures were available) the average amount paid annually to young people in receipt of £30 a week educational maintenance allowance (EMA) was £760, equating to approximately 25 weekly payments. For young people in receipt of £20 a week the average annual payment was £520, and for young people receiving £10 a week it was £260.

Under arrangements for transitional support, young people holding an EMA 'guarantee' from 2009/10—including, but not limited to, those in receipt of free school meals—will see no change to their payments. Those who received £30 a week EMA for the first time in 2010/11 will receive £20 a week—including around 140,000 young people who are not eligible for free school meals. Young people who received £10 and £20 a week EMA for the first time in 2010/11 will not receive a guarantee of support under the transitional arrangements: young people in this group will not be eligible for free school meals.

Current recipients of EMA in both the 2009/10 cohort and the 2010/11 cohort—whether or not they are eligible for free school meals between 2010-11 and 2011-12—will be eligible to apply for a bursary, in addition to any weekly payments, from their school, college or training provider.

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been published and is available on the Department's website:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/1/ema%20replacement%20scheme.pdf

A copy has also been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the difference in average annual incomes attributable to the introduction of the bursary payments for children in receipt of free school meals entitled to the full education maintenance allowance assuming no other changes in their personal circumstances. [50613]

Mr Gibb: In 2009/10 (the last year for which full figures are available) the average amount paid annually to young people in receipt of £30 a week EMA was £760.

Following the introduction of 16 to 19 bursaries from September 2011, the most vulnerable young people—children in care, care leavers and young people on income support—will receive a bursary of £1,200.

Under arrangements for transitional support, young people holding an EMA 'guarantee' from 2009/10—including those in receipt of free school meals—will see no change to their payments. Those who received £30 a week EMA for the first time in 2010/11—including those in receipt of free school meals—will receive £20 a week. Young people in both the 2009/10 cohort and the 2010/11 cohort will also be eligible to apply for a bursary, in addition to these weekly payments, from their school, college or training provider.

While actual payments will reflect need, by way of illustration the 16 to 19 bursary fund is sufficient to provide a bursary of £800 a year to 15% of all 16-19 year olds in full-time education and training—more than covering those who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11. This represents an increase of £40 on the current annual average payment to all young people receiving £30 a week EMA.

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been published and is available on the Department's website:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/1/ema%20replacement%20scheme.pdf

A copy has also been placed in the House Libraries.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he will determine free school meal eligibility in sixth form and further education colleges for the purposes of allocating discretionary funding for 16 to 19 education. [51057]

Mr Gibb: Sixth form colleges, further education colleges and training providers will have discretion to award bursaries to students, including those who were in receipt of free school meals while at school, in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances. Decisions will be made at a local level and it will be for colleges and training providers to consider what type of evidence they will use when determining how to allocate bursaries.

Free Schools

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the basis in legislation is for the establishment of free schools. [50643]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* Free schools will be set up as academies under the provisions of the Academies Act 2010.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will have discussions with local authorities for the purposes of asking them to encourage more applications for free schools. [51455]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities have a strong strategic role to fulfil as commissioners of schools and school places and a statutory duty to plan and secure the provision of schools. Free schools are designed to respond to local parental demand for change and as such we would expect local authorities to work with groups who come forward with an idea for a school. The changes in the Education Bill also provide for LAs to invite, as a first choice, solutions from an academy or a free school group where they have identified a need for additional school places.

GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of students were entered for A-level examinations in *(a)* English literature, *(b)* history, *(c)* further mathematics, *(d)* biological sciences and *(e)* physics in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [50851]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Free Schools Meals

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children gained five or more A* to C grades at GCSE in English, mathematics, the sciences, a foreign language and a humanity in each year since GCSEs were introduced; and how many of those were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* ineligible for free school meals in each such year. [50736]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* This question can be interpreted in two ways. We have provided figures for each of the subjects separately and an overall figure, for pupils that achieved GCSEs at grade A* to C in all of the listed subjects.

The figures requested for 2009 and 2010 are given in the following table:

Number of pupils[1] achieving A-C GCSE grades by free school meal eligibility. Years: 2009-10 (amended)[2]. Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)*

	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*		*All pupils[3]*	
	2009	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
All pupils:	74,419	77,324	504,377	500,640	578,840	578,063
Achieving A-C grades by subject:*						
English						
Number	27,905	33,178	329,914	349,405	357,846	382,649
Percentage of pupils	37.5	42.9	65.4	69.8	61.8	66.2
Mathematics						
Number	26,075	30,625	312,568	329,997	338,673	360,685
Percentage of pupils	35.0	39.6	62.0	65.9	58.5	62.4
At least two sciences[4]						
Number	15,917	17,570	238,278	245,507	254,203	263,103
Percentage of pupils	21.4	22.7	47.2	49.0	43.9	45.5
Humanities[5]						
Number	9,115	9,997	172,973	174,082	182,098	184,095
Percentage of pupils	12.2	12.9	34.3	34.8	31.5	31.8
Modern Languages[6]						
Number	10,156	10,420	151,824	150,851	161,990	161,299
Percentage of pupils	13.6	13.5	30.1	30.1	28.0	27.9
GCSEs at grade A-C inc. all of the above subjects*						
Number	2,848	3,161	83,478	84,701	86,326	87,869
Percentage of pupils	3.8	4.1	16.6	16.9	14.9	15.2

[1] Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] 2009 figures are based on final data; 2010 figures are based on amended data.

[3] Includes pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

[4] Pupils who achieved grade A*-C at (i) Double award Science GCSE, (ii) in both (Core Science or Single Science) and Additional Science GCSEs or (iii) were entered Physics, Chemistry and Biological Science and achieved A*-C grades in at least two of them.

[5] Pupils who achieved grade A*-C at GCSE in History, Geography or both subjects. There is no set definition of 'Humanities', this definition is in line with the proposed English Baccalaureate.

[6] Pupils who achieved grade A*-C at GCSE in at least one of the following subjects: French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Figures for previous years are available only at disproportionate cost.

The subjects in this PQ are similar but not the same as those in the English Baccalaureate. National and school level data on individual GCSE subjects, indicators excluding equivalences and the components of the English Baccalaureate, were published on 31 March 2011 (see tables 1b and 4) at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml

Health Education: Sex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requests for information relating to *(a)* abortion and *(b)* sex and relationships education were made to his Department and its predecessor under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year since 2009; whether each request was (i) agreed to and (ii) refused; if he will place in the Library a copy of the information provided in response to each request; and if he will make a statement. [48872]

Sarah Teather: All FOI requests for abortion data are responded to by the Department of Health.

There have been five FOI requests for information relating specifically to sex and relationships education (SRE) and a further case that covered both SRE and religious education/collective worship. A summary of each request and its outcome is provided as follows. Copies of the full replies and any associated documents that were provided to the correspondent, will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

(1) On 6 November 2009, Mr Norman Wells requested release of all correspondence, notes of meetings, discussion papers, file notes and all other documents in relation to discussions about the age up to which parents should be able to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education lessons.

A reply to Mr Wells on 30 November 2009 confirmed that the requested information was being withheld under section 35(1)(a) and section 42 of the FOI Act 2000.

(2) On 19 January 2010, Mr G. E. Hester requested copies of minutes and any notes, including handwritten notes, taken at any meetings or gatherings where the Catholic Education Service, or any of its agents, including Ms Oona Stannard and Bishop McMahon, met with any civil servant or Government Minister in the calendar year 2009 on the subject of sex education or PSHE in schools; and any letters, e-mails or other communications sent by the same parties on the same subject in the calendar year 2009.

A reply to Mr Hester on 5 March 2010 explained that aspects of the information he had requested had been partially withheld under section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act 2000.

(3) On 9 April 2010, Mr Carl Gardner requested disclosure of all legal advice provided in 2009 and 2010 by DCSF or other Government lawyers, including Parliamentary Counsel, or by outside counsel instructed by Government lawyers, on the questions (a) whether any amendment to the Children, Schools and Families Bill to give parents the right to withdraw their children from 'PSHE' until the age of 16 would or would not be incompatible with convention rights and (b) on the question whether Ministers had any choice but to remove those provisions from the Bill; disclose whether or not such legal advice was or was not given, by whom it was given, and when, or disclosure of the fact that legal advice was given if we believe naming individuals would prejudice individual privacy.

A reply to Mr Gardner on 10 May 2010 confirmed that this information had been withheld under section 35(1)(a), section 40(2), and section 42 of the FOI Act 2000.

(4) On 8 April 2010, Ms Dimmock from the Children's Right Alliance for England (CRAE) requested a copy of the legal advice provided to the (then) Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls) concerning the compliance of the Children, Schools and Families Bill with the European convention on human rights (ECHR), specifically with regard to the age at which parents can withdraw their children from sex and relationships education.

A reply to Ms Dimmock on 10 May 2010 confirmed that this information had been withheld under section 35(1)(a), section 40(2), and section 42 of the FOI Act 2000

(5) Following the decision at point (1), Mr Norman Wells was advised by the Information Commissioner that, due to the passage of time, it might be relevant to make a second request for all correspondence, notes of meetings, discussion papers, file notes and all other documents in relation to discussions about the age up to which parents should be able to withdraw their children from sex and relationships education, prior to 6 May 2010. This subsequent request was made on 1 November 2010.

A reply to Mr Wells on 15 December 2010 reiterated that this information was being withheld under section 35(1)(a) and section 42 of the FOI Act 2000.

(6) On 24 May 2010, Mr Chilton asked whether any assessments had been made about the compatibility of: section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; and section 405 of the Education Act 1996, on a range of articles and conventions.

A reply containing the information requested was provided on 15 June 2010.

International Baccalaureate

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the *(a)* funding and *(b)* availability of places to study for the International Baccalaureate in maintained schools and colleges. [50856]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* Funding for the International Baccalaureate (IB) will be the same for the academic year 2011/12 as it has been in 2010/11. The 16 to 19 funding formula is currently being reviewed and we will ensure that we take into account issues relating to the delivery of the IB as part of that review.

The Government recognise the high quality and rigour of the IB and we very much support schools and colleges who choose to offer it. However, it is for schools and colleges to judge the demand for the IB and to determine the number of places they want to offer.

Outward Grange Consultancy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department spent on education services provided by Outward Grange Consultancy in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [50506]

(2) what information his Department holds on the *(a)* income and *(b)* expenditure of Outward Grange Consultancy in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [50503]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not made any payments to Outward Grange Consultancy and does not have any financial information on Outward Grange Consultancy.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the appropriateness of the award of public sector contracts to Outward Grange Consultancy; and if he will make a statement. [50533]

Mr Gibb: The Department has made no payments to the Outward Grange Consultancy. In awarding contracts, the Department ensures that it awards contracts to commercial consultancy organisations in line with the Public Procurement Regulations 2006.

Parenting Classes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* pre-natal classes and *(b)* adult parenting classes in improving child development. [48206]

Sarah Teather: The Department has assessed the effectiveness of a number of pre-natal and adult parenting classes in improving child development. Details of these are as follows:

Pre-natal classes

The Family Nurse Partnership programme (FNP), which includes a focus on parenting skills, starts in the pre-natal period and continues until the child is two years old. It is designed to improve the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of parents and their children.

Early research into the implementation of FNP has demonstrated that the programme generates high levels of engagement with hard to reach families, strong engagement with fathers, a reduction in smoking during pregnancy and increasing breastfeeding rates. More information is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR166.pdf

Adult parenting classes

The Department for Education currently provides funding support to the National Academy of Parenting Research (NAPR) that looks at effective parenting interventions and evidence-based parenting programmes that work to improve child well-being and educational attainment. Findings about the effectiveness of the parenting programmes will be published in 2012.

In 2008 and 2010 the Department for Education published results from the evaluation of the Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinder (PEIP). The parenting programmes have had positive effects on the parents' mental well-being and the style of parenting, as well as their children's behaviours. More information is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR047.pdf

Family intervention services work with the most challenging families. The intervention provides the families with the support of a dedicated 'key worker' who co-ordinates a multi-agency package of support and works directly with the families to help them overcome problems. In 2006 the Department commissioned the National Centre for Social Research to conduct a programme of research to monitor and evaluate Family Intervention Projects (FiPs) as they were then known. This programme of work is currently ongoing. Published statistics can be found here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000956/osr09-2010.pdf

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency who will qualify for the pupil premium. [49676]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 school censuses. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the Looked After Child Pupil Premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2010 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 local authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

There is also a Service child premium which will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils who were registered as Service children on the January 2011 School Census. Each pupil known to be eligible will attract £200 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA.

Data from the January 2011 school censuses are not yet available, but the January 2010 censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made.

In Berkshire[1] in January 2010 there were 13,020 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £5,392,000.

In the Reading local authority in January 2010 there were 3,120 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £1,341,000

In Reading West constituency in January 2010 there were 2,500 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £1,073,000. This does not include pupils recorded on the Alternative Provision census (i.e. those funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in Non-Maintained Special Schools, Further Education establishments, etc.), or children eligible for the looked after child premium as this is not available at constituency level.

However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed.

[1] Includes the following local authorities Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham.

Note:

The county and local authority level figures in the above estimates include FTE FSM-eligible pupils, in Reception to Year 11, or aged 4-15 if not following the National Curriculum, as at the January 2010 School Census and Pupil Referral Unit Census and headcount from 4-15 in the Alternative Provision Census (i.e. those pupils funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in Non-Maintained Special Schools, Further Education establishments, etc.) those eligible for the Service child premium and those eligible for the Looked After Child pupil premium. Dual main registrations and sole registrations for five to 15 and all registrations for 4-year-olds are taken. Pupil numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and allocations are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of closing the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency. [50456]

Mr Gibb: The Department is committed to the Government's ambition to reform public bodies, improve transparency and accountability, streamline services and reduce costs. Subject to the will of Parliament, I expect the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) to be closed shortly after Royal Assent is given to the Education Bill. It is too soon to provide an estimate of the costs which will be incurred and savings which will be achieved by closing the QCDA. Across the spending review period, the savings from closing the QCDA will contribute to the overall anticipated departmental savings from ALBs of up to £673 million.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of transferring staff working on the National Curriculum Assessment at the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency into his Department; [50457]

(2) what estimate has been made of the likely level of savings that will arise from transferring responsibilities from the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency to the Standards and Testing Agency. [51026]

Mr Gibb: We expect the great majority of staff currently working directly on statutory assessment and testing within the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) to transfer in due course to the Standards and Testing Agency. Overall costs associated with establishing the Standards and Testing Agency, including the necessary works to effect transfer of staff to DfE systems, are not expected to exceed £5 million.

It is too soon to be specific or to provide a detailed breakdown of the savings that will be achieved by closing the QCDA. Across the spending review period, the savings from closing the QCDA will contribute to the overall anticipated Departmental savings of up to £673 million. Our priority for National Curriculum testing is to ensure its smooth and efficient transfer to the Standards and Testing Agency, in order to support safe delivery of testing through that agency.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to avoid compulsory redundancies among staff working at the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency. [50458]

Mr Gibb: The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) and the Department are committed to minimising potential redundancies. Where functions are transferring to the Department or elsewhere, the majority of staff working directly on those functions are expected to transfer with them. For those areas of the QCDA's work which will cease, and where jobs are at risk, the QCDA has commenced consultation on a voluntary redundancy scheme and has adopted a number of redundancy avoidance measures, including affected staff being given priority status when applying for civil service vacancies.

School Leaving

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the September Guarantee of a funded learning place to all 16 to 17-year-olds. [51000]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency has allocated funding to schools, colleges and other providers for over 1.3 million places for 16 to 19-year-olds in the 2011/12 academic year. Together with the funding available for 230,000 apprenticeship places for this age group, this will ensure that an appropriate funded place is available for any 16 or 17-year-old who wants one.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, my noble Friend (Lord Hill) wrote to all local authorities on 17 February 2011 to make clear that the process of offering 16 and 17-year-olds a suitable place in education or training by the end of September, which has been known as the 'September Guarantee', will continue. This will help to ensure that more young people have the opportunity to continue their education as we move towards full participation of 16 and 17-year-olds by 2015.

School Meals: Expenditure

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on school meals in each year since 2007 *(a)* in the City of Brighton and Hove and *(b)* nationally. [34861]

Sarah Teather: School meals are primarily funded by parents and local authorities. The Department's contribution was introduced in 2005 to support the transformation of school food and help schools to meet the increased costs of introducing healthier school lunches.

The Department has contributed the following towards the costs of school lunches in Brighton and Hove:

2007-08: £293,386 (Targeted School Meals and Devolved School Meals Grants)

2008-09: £316,267 (School Lunch Grant)

2009-10: £310,126 (School Lunch Grant)

2010-11: £301,597 (School Lunch Grant).

The value of the School Lunch Grant, to be mainstreamed into the Dedicated Schools Grant in Brighton and Hove in 2011-12, is £301,597.

The total over these four years in Brighton and Hove is £1,221,376.

The Department has funded English local authorities with £80 million per year via the grants listed above, giving a total of £320 million over the same four years.

Schools: Academies

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of employment at Portland and Valley schools of his decision to award academy status to Outwood Grange Academy. [50462]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has approved an Expression of Interest from Outwood Grange Academy Trust to develop plans to replace both Valley and Portland Secondary Schools with two Sponsored Academies. This project will now move into the next stage of development. During this phase, the appropriate staffing structure to run each of the Academies effectively will be developed by Outwood Grange Academy Trust.

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications his Department has received from schools seeking to become Academy schools since August 2010. [50485]

Mr Gibb: As of 1 March 2011, 486 schools had applied to convert into Academies since August 2010. The April figure will be published later this week.

A list is available on the DfE website, which is updated monthly at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Schools: Finance

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure equitable funding of schools *(a)* within and *(b)* between local authority areas. [47567]

Mr Gibb: This Government inherited a funding system that was based on an out of date assessment of need, and this has resulted in some anomalies in revenue funding within and between local authorities areas. For 2011-12, we have simplified schools funding by removing ring fenced grants but there remains a need for greater transparency and consistency in funding. We want all schools to be funded logically and equitably, and to reduce the funding differences between similar schools in different areas.

We announced in the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" that we intend to consult in the spring of 2011 on the merits of moving to such a National Funding Formula for schools, the right time to begin the transition to a formula, the transitional arrangements necessary to ensure that schools and local authorities do not suffer undue turbulence, and the factors to take into account in order to assess the needs of pupils for funding purposes.

Schools: GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of A-level students in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective schools, *(c)* independent schools and *(d)* sixth form colleges in each local education authority area were entered for (1) at least three A-levels from (i) mathematics, (ii) English literature, (iii) further mathematics, (iv) biological sciences, (v) physics, (vi) chemistry, (vii) geography and (viii) a modern foreign language in the latest period for which figures are available; [50158]

(2) A-level mathematics examinations in the latest period for which figures are available; [50159]

(3) one or more A-level examinations in a foreign language in the latest period for which figures are available. [50160]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much was to be allocated to schools in Nottinghamshire in 2011-12 before the allocations from the fourth round of Standards Fund payments; and how much is now to be allocated. [49961]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 30 March 2011]:* There are two funding streams from this Department in 2011-12 that are available to local authorities to fund schools. They are the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium. The Dedicated Schools Grant per pupil for Nottinghamshire for 2011-12 is £4,746.05. The pupil premium is £430 per pupil eligible for free school meals or looked after child and £200 per service child. These amounts have not been changed since they were announced on 13 December 2010 as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which body is responsible for arbitrating disputes over responsibility for payments under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in cases where a school constructed or improved under a PFI Project subsequently becomes an academy. [48262]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 March 2011]:* When a PFI school becomes an academy, the local authority, academy trust and DfE negotiate a tripartite agreement known as the Principal Agreement. It is for the parties involved to reach agreement on the terms and conditions of this document. The Principal Agreement contains a comprehensive dispute resolution process which would be used if a dispute arose between the parties after it had been signed. It sets out that, where initial efforts fail, and mediation by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) does not solve the problem, any party can refer the matter to an adjudicator. If the parties cannot agree who should adjudicate, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators would appoint one.

Schools: Southwark

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding for discretionary learner support his Department plans to allocate for schools in Southwark in academic year 2011-12. [48029]

Mr Gibb: On 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 51-53, the Secretary of State for Education announced a new £180 million bursary scheme which, from September 2011, will be targeted towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16. He also set out proposals for transitional arrangements to help some of those who are presently in receipt of EMA. We are currently consulting on our proposals, including on the methodology for allocating the funding to schools, colleges and training organisations.

Schools: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the use of school facilities for sport. [51319]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 56W.

Schools: Transport

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effects of reductions in the revenue support grant on the ability of local authorities to meet their statutory travel to school obligations. [37095]

Michael Gove: I have allocated a further £85 million over the next two financial years to local authorities to support children from low income families to attend schools further from home than the statutory walking distances. Officials will review with local authorities how we can improve the efficiency and practice within local authority transport planning in the coming years.

Secondary Education: Kingston upon Thames

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make funding available for a new secondary school in North Kingston. [32971]

Mr Gibb: In December, the Secretary of State for Education, informed every relevant local authority of its full share of DfE capital funding for 2011-12 - £4.9 million for the Royal borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. The Department has not retained any reserves for responding to individual applications from schools or local authorities.

Special Educational Needs

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to integrate education for children with special educational needs into mainstream schools. [50044]

Sarah Teather: The latest available data from the 2010 School Census show that the majority (54.9%) of children with special educational needs (SEN) statements—those with the most severe and complex needs—are educated in mainstream schools. Other than in exceptional circumstances, all children with SEN but without statements are educated in mainstream schools. In January 2010, 90% of the 1.7 million pupils identified with Special Educational Needs were in maintained mainstream schools.

For children with statements of special educational needs, parents currently can request that their child goes to a local authority maintained school, including a maintained mainstream school, and the local authority has a conditional duty to send the child to the school the parents have requested.

The Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' was published on 9 March. In that, the Government makes clear that parents should have a real choice between mainstream and special schools in meeting their children's needs. To this effect, it proposes to introduce legislation to ensure that the parents of children with an SEN statement, or a new 'Education, Health and Care Plan', have equivalent rights to request any state-funded school—whether that is a mainstream school, special school, mainstream or special Academy or Free School—and that the local authority will have the same conditional duty to send the child to the school the parents have requested.

Where parents request a mainstream place, the Green Paper proposes a number of ways to help equip mainstream school teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the needs of children with SEN. These include: funding for a greater number of teacher trainee placements in special school settings so that prospective teachers can develop their skills in meeting the needs of children with SEN; encouraging learning from the best practice in mainstream and special schools; scholarships for serving teachers to develop their practice in supporting pupils with SEN, including in specific impairments and; launching a tender for bids from external organisations to build on the good practice achieved by the successful Achievement for All approach to school improvement, with its emphasis on high expectation and constructive engagement with parents.

Special Educational Needs: Academies

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether parents of children with statements of special educational needs (SEN) are restricted in seeking to send such children to academy special schools; whether local authorities are entitled to direct all children with SEN in this area to an area special school; and if he will make a statement. [49859]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* We expect the first special academies to open in September 2011. Parents will then have the right to ask for their child with a statement of special educational needs to go to a special academy. Local authorities will have to consider parental requests for a place at a special academy, but will not be obliged to name it in the statement as the school the child will attend. In cases where parents' preferences have not been met, parents have the right to appeal to the first-tier tribunal (special educational needs and disability).

Local authorities cannot direct all children with statements to attend their local special schools. They have a conditional duty to comply with parental requests for children with statements to be educated in local authority maintained schools, either special or mainstream. The Government's Green Paper "Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability", published on 9 March, proposes that all parental requests for a placement in state-funded schools, including special academies, will be treated in the same way. This will mean that local authorities will have the same conditional duty to send children with statements to special academies in accordance with parental requests as they currently do for parental requests for local authority maintained schools.

Students: Grants

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with what frequency payments to those awarded 16 to 19 bursaries will be made. [51315]

Mr Gibb: Decisions regarding the frequency of payments to those awarded 16-19 Bursaries will be a matter for schools, colleges and training providers. We are currently consulting on the details of the new arrangements.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to consult on the development of a discretionary fund for 16 to 19 student finance. [51325]

Mr Gibb: A consultation on the 16-19 Bursary Fund was launched on 28 March 2011 and will run until 20 May 2011. Consultation documents are available on the Department for Education's website.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average household income is of those who will receive a full bursary from his Department's 16 - 19 education fund who are *(a)* severely disabled, *(b)* a care leaver and *(c)* from a family in receipt of income support in the next academic year. [51363]

Mr Gibb: Young people in care, care leavers and young people in receipt of income support in their own right will receive a bursary of £1,200 a year under the new arrangements. The Department does not hold information regarding their household income and we do not expect providers to ask for evidence of household income for these very vulnerable groups of young people.

Teachers: Pay

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the likely effects on quality of education of proposed reductions in teaching assistant pay in Cumbria. [50861]

Michael Gove *[holding answer 4 April 2011]*: Decisions on pay and conditions are taken at local level, by the employer of the staff in question. All employers are obliged to ensure that their reward structure delivers equality of pay across their work force. This is the purpose of the Single Status review that has been carried out in Cumbria. The Government believe it is right for this matter to be dealt with locally. In doing so, however, there is an expectation that the staffing structures in place in schools will be those that provide for the greatest impact on pupil outcomes.

I am aware that many school support staff in Cumbria are concerned about the outcomes of the county council's Single Status job evaluation. But I have no doubt that, despite these concerns, their commitment to support the delivery of high quality education to the pupils in Cumbria will be maintained.

Value-added Metric

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish key stage 2-4 value added results for each local authority under the pre-2005 value-added metric alongside the contextual value-added results for 2009 and 2010. [37044]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not held by the Department and can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Vocational Guidance: Young People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to increase the standard of career services available to young people; and if he will make a statement. [50969]

Mr Gibb: Subject to the passage of the Education Bill through Parliament, schools will be under a duty to secure access to independent careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012. The careers guidance must be presented in an impartial manner and include information on 16 to 18 education or training options, including Apprenticeships. This new provision will apply to pupils in school years nine to 11 and we will also consult this summer on whether the duty should be extended down to year eight and up to age 18. Schools will be free to make arrangements for careers guidance that fit the needs and circumstances of their pupils.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer *(a)* Questions 38027 and 38028 tabled on 31 January 2011 for answer on 3 February 2011, *(b)* Question 38806 tabled on 25 January 2011 for answer on 31 January 2011, and *(c)* Questions 35861, 35860, 35859 and 35858 tabled on 19 January 2011 for answer on 24 January 2011. [40622]

Mr Gibb: A response to Question 38028 has been issued today. A response to Question 35861 will be issued shortly.

Responses were issued to the other questions as follows:

PQs 35858 and 36806: 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 246-48W.

PQ 38027: 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1103-104W.

PQs 35860: 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 42W.

JUSTICE

Driving Offences

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will request the Sentencing Guidelines Council to review sentencing guidelines for offences of driving without insurance to provide that the penalty imposed by the courts is greater than the average annual cost of motor insurance; and if he will make a statement. [50570]

Mr Blunt: The Sentencing Guidelines Council was abolished on 6 April 2010 and was replaced on the same date by the Sentencing Council for England and Wales. It is for the Sentencing Council as an independent body to decide whether existing guidelines need to be reviewed, and the content of its guidelines.

Sentencing guidelines are clear that the amount of a fine must reflect the seriousness of the offence. The court must also take into account the financial circumstances of the offender, so that the impact is equal on offenders with different incomes; it should be a hardship but not force an offender below a reasonable subsistence level. For the offence of driving without insurance the guideline is that a 'Band C' fine should be imposed, with a starting point of 150% of weekly income.

I am looking into the position and will write to the hon. Member.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the level of fine payable on conviction of an offence of keeping a car without insurance; and if he will make a statement. [50568]

Mr Blunt: The maximum sentence available on conviction for keeping a car without insurance is a £1,000 fine. Within that statutory limit, it is for the court to decide what to impose in a particular case, taking into account the seriousness of the offence and the circumstances of the offender. I am looking into the position and will write to the hon. Member.

Community Orders: Technology

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration has been given to the use of recent technology in developing innovative alternatives to custody as part of his Department's review of sentencing policy. [51161]

Mr Blunt: The Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle" proposes to make curfews tougher to punish offenders and give communities respite from criminal behaviour. It expects curfews to be used more creatively to target offending patterns, and assist compliance with other requirements. It also proposes the use of other technology, such as satellite tracking, to improve surveillance.

We are always looking at ways to enhance the supervision of offenders in the community. Following a pilot several years ago it was found that the GPS technology for tracking the movements of offenders was not robust enough. However, we have kept the technology under review and have been exploring a number of uses including whether GPS tracking would be a useful tool to monitor certain offenders.

Community Orders: Voluntary Organisations

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms have been considered as a means of enabling the voluntary sector to implement innovative approaches to ensuring that offenders complete community orders as part of his Department's review of sentencing policy. [51158]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Business Plan 2011-15 sets out that we will no longer provide rehabilitation services directly without testing where the private, voluntary or community sectors can provide it more effectively and efficiently.

The payment by results approach will encourage innovation and bring out the diverse skills from all sectors. In exploring payment by results options we will consider the specific barriers for these smaller providers and will identify options which will best enable them to be part of a dynamic mixed market of provision.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from private and voluntary sector providers interested in providing alternatives to custody as part of his Department's review of sentencing policy. [51160]

Mr Blunt: As part of the consultation process on the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", the Ministry of Justice received over 1,200 responses. Of these, approximately 180 were from voluntary and community sector organisations, and approximately 90 were from private organisations. Policy officials are currently still in the process of considering the consultation responses.

As part of the development of the "Breaking the Cycle" Green Paper, the Ministry worked closely with the Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group and a broader group of voluntary sector partners in developing the range of proposals. We also fund the third sector infrastructure organisation Clinks to provide a voice for the sector. Clinks consulted and fed in the views of a range of mainly small and medium-sized voluntary and community organisations working with offenders. In addition, policy officials also met representatives from the private and public sector during the development of the Green Paper proposals.

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people normally resident in *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* the criminal justice area covering Poole constituency were convicted of alcohol-related offences in each of the last five years. [50516]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

From information held by the Ministry of Justice, the number of persons found guilty at courts in Dorset police force area for alcohol related offences, for the years 2005 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

This information is not available at parliamentary constituency level and the place of residence of those convicted of an offence cannot be identified from data held centrally.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of persons found guilty in Dorset police force area for alcohol related offences[1], 2005 to 2009[2,3]

Dorset police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Found guilty	1,190	1,145	1,230	1,168	1,132

[1] Includes offences of;
(a) Drunkenness.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person or others acting on their behalf.
(d) Other offences (against intoxicating liquor laws).
(e) Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs—Aiding, abetting, causing or permitting driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Data Protection: Clubs

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has assessed the merits of extending data protection exemptions conferred on charities to include sports clubs. [51216]

Mr Djanogly: An exemption from the requirement to provide an annual notification to the Information Commissioner currently exists for non profit-making organisations, relating to processing of their members' personal data for administrative purposes. It is likely that many sports clubs may already rely on this exemption.

The Government will consider any changes to the UK's own data protection legislation as part of the forthcoming negotiations on a new EU data protection legal instrument. A legislative proposal from the European Commission, due to be published in the summer, is expected to address the issue of notification to national data protection authorities.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51425]

Mr Djanogly: Mobile communications devices in the Ministry of Justice are supplied to officials on the basis of established business need. As at December 2010, the total number of mobile communication devices supplied to officials in Ministry of Justice headquarters (HQ), Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) was 10,649. This comprises 7,956 mobile phones, 2,190 BlackBerrys and Smartphones, and 503 other devices (e.g. data cards). Overall expenditure on mobile telephones and related services for 2009-10 for HQ, HMPS and HMCTS was £2.26 million. The number and cost for BlackBerrys supplied to the national probation service (NPS) are included in these figures, however, data on mobile phones for the NPS are not included, as records for these are not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51383]

Mr Djanogly: The vacancy rates for 2010-11 are given in the following table.

	Percentage
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	6
Wider MoJ	4.7

In developing budgets for 2011-12 no specific vacancy rate has been assumed. The number of vacancies in the forthcoming year will depend upon turnover rates and the ability to redeploy displaced staff.

Discrimination

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the financial effects on his Department of the non-implementation of the dual discrimination rules in the Equality Act 2010. [51296]

Mr Djanogly: According to the impact assessment published by the Government Equalities Office in April 2010, the financial cost for courts and tribunals of implementing the dual discrimination provision in the Equality Act 2010 have been assessed at £251,728, over 10 years, for cases where only a dual discrimination case was brought; when a complaint of dual discrimination was brought with one or more other single strand discrimination complaint it was thought that the hearing duration would have increased by one third. Since a decision has been taken not to implement the provision, it will no longer have that impact on the Department.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51407]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All figures given are for the financial year 2009-10 and cover the Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the National Offender Management Service and the Office of the Public Guardian. These organisations had a total of over 94,000 staff at the time.

	£
Recruitment agency fees	[1]n/a
Outplacement agency fees	1,860
Training costs[2]	11,695,000

[1] It would incur disproportionate costs to identify these costs as we use the same suppliers for permanent staff, temporary staff, and some consultancy. It is therefore impossible to pull out the specific costs for agency fees as these are not separated from daily rates, expenses etc.

[2] This figure has come from the published resource accounts category "Training and Other Staff Costs". The MoJ and its executive agencies use a wide variety of training methods and it is not possible to capture all of these from the internal accounting system. As well as providing online learning opportunities through the Justice Academy, many staff are job skills trainers, who provide training and support to colleagues in specific skills e.g. bespoke IT packages or local processes. Staff can also access books and other resources from the Learning Library and go through these at their own pace. If the MoJ is not able to offer a suitable course for a staff member, then external training providers may be used.

Land Registry

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet staff representatives to discuss the future of the Land Registry. [51323]

Mr Djanogly: The Minister of State, my noble Friend (Lord McNally), has agreed to meet with staff representatives of the Land Registry once consideration of the recent Feasibility Study into the opportunities presented by private sector involvement in the Land Registry has concluded, and before any public announcement has been made. A date has not yet been set for those meetings.

Law: Repealed

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many laws have been repealed since May 2010. [51332]

Mr Djanogly: Given the limited time available it has not been possible to collate the information that has been requested.

However, I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Government are committed to the repeal of legislation which is no longer necessary. The Ministry of Justice is working with departments across Government to prepare a Repeals Bill with a view to taking forward legislation when parliamentary time allows.

The Bill aims to repeal legislative provisions in all areas of law that do not work as intended because they are unnecessary, obsolete or unworkable. This will reduce burdens on people and businesses and result in better law.

The Bill is one of a number of measures to take forward the Government's commitment to removing unnecessary laws from the statute book and rolling back state intrusion in people's lives. Other related measures include the abolition of ID cards; the Protection of Freedoms Bill currently before Parliament; and the Your Freedom public engagement exercise which took place over the summer.

Legal Aid Scheme: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley were granted in each of the last three years. [50848]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of applications granted to individual people who apply for legal aid, whether successful or not, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

We are re-examining the data in respect of the geographical areas requested and I will write separately with this information.

Prisons: Private Finance Initiative

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons have been operating under the private finance initiative since 1997. [51450]

Mr Blunt: Nine prisons have been built and operated under the private finance initiative since 1997. Further details are available on the HM Prison Service website

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/prisoninformation/privateprison/

Prisons: Standards

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what comparative analysis he has undertaken of the reports on standards in *(a)* private sector and *(b)* public sector prisons undertaken by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [51456]

Mr Blunt: No comparative analysis of the reports of HM chief inspector of prisons has been undertaken specifically on standards in private and public sector prisons. Since 2009-10, the prison rating system (PRS) has been the single framework for assessing the performance of both public and contracted prisons in England and Wales; the results from HM Inspectorate of Prisons' healthy prisons tests form part of the framework. Once the ratings have been finalised, they are published on the Ministry's website.

Probation: Voluntary Organisations

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration has been given to means of ensuring that probation trusts increase the involvement of the voluntary sector in managing offenders as part of his Department's review of sentencing policy. [51159]

Mr Blunt: The Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" explores ways in which we can further develop the role of the voluntary and community sector, for example in relation to integrated offender management and access to accommodation for ex-offenders. The payment-by-results approach we are adopting will bring out the diverse skills from all sectors, including the small and specialist voluntary providers and social enterprises.

We are considering the responses we have received to the consultation on the Green Paper and intend to publish our response in May.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted under section 1 of the Protection From Harassment Act 1997 in relation to public protests. [51304]

Mr Blunt: Section 1(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 provides that a person must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another, and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other. Section 1(1A) states that a person must not pursue a course of conduct involving the 'harassment of two or more persons, which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment, and which' is intended to persuade them (or somebody else) not to do something that they are entitled or required to do or to do something that they are not under any obligation to do.

A defendant who pursues a course of conduct in breach of section 1(1) or section 1(1A) is guilty of an offence under section 2 of the Act.

The Ministry of Justice court proceedings database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute, statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to separately identify those proceedings under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 which specifically occurred in relation to public protests.

Charging data are not available centrally.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for injunction were made under section 3 of the Protection From Harassment Act 1997 in each of the last five years; on what grounds the injunctions were sought; and in how many cases the injunction was granted. [51305]

Mr Blunt: There were 361 applications for injunctions and 283 injunctions granted under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 between April 2009 and December 2009 and 457 and 375 respectively in 2010. Comparable data for previous periods are not available.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally according to the ground on which the injunctions were sought under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. This information could be obtained only through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

Nia Griffith: To ask the Attorney-General when he expects the Crown Prosecution Service to publish its public policy statement on the prosecution of cases involving human trafficking. [50797]

The Attorney-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the oral question from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Jack Dromey) today.

CABINET OFFICE

Land Registry

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the proposed Public Data Corporation is to take over the work of the Land Registry. [51322]

Mr Maude: One of the aims the Government have set themselves on Public Data Corporation is to create a centre of excellence for collecting, holding and managing public data, driving further efficiencies and improving productivity across the public sector.

The Government are considering whether machinery of government changes to bring some organisations under the sponsorship of one Department could assist in furthering this aim and whether the merits of change would outweigh the costs.

Until decisions are taken it would be premature to announce which bodies may be involved. Further details will be announced if the Government decide to proceed with these changes.

Prostate Cancer

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many men in each age group were diagnosed with prostate cancer in each of the last five years; and what proportion *(a)* died and *(b)* recovered in each such year. [50311]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many men in each age group were diagnosed with prostate cancer in each of the last five years; and what proportion (a) died and (b) recovered in each such year. [50311]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The numbers of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer in England by age group, in each year from 2004 to 2008, are presented in Table 1.

ONS does not publish figures on what proportion of people diagnosed with a cancer (a) died or (b) recovered. Instead, ONS publishes figures on one-year and five-year relative survival for adults diagnosed with cancer, by age group and sex.

Relative survival is an estimate of the probability of survival from cancer alone. This takes into account the fact that some cancer patients will die from other causes other than their cancer during the period in question.

For some cancers, five-year survival figures are interpreted as 'cure' rates. However, some prostate cancer tumours progress very slowly and may not cause symptoms or death. Patients diagnosed with these types of tumours are monitored in the first instance, rather than being treated with a view to being 'cured'. For these reasons, five-year survival from prostate cancer is not the same as 'recovery' or 'cure'.

The latest one-year and five-year survival rates available for adults diagnosed with prostate cancer are for men diagnosed in 2003-2007 and followed up to 2008. These figures are presented by age group in Table 2.

ONS does not publish site-specific cancer survival figures by single year of diagnosis. For statistical reliability, figures are published for three- to five-year periods, to avoid over-interpretation of random year on year fluctuations.

The latest published figures on the incidence of prostate cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf

The latest one-year survival figures available for England, for 21 common cancers, for patients diagnosed in 2003-2007 and followed up to the end of 2008, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Comparable survival rates for England for each preceding five year period back to 1998-2001 and followed up to 2003 can also be downloaded from this link.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer by age group, males, England, 2004-08[1, 2]

Age group	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
0-49	206	229	250	237	284
50-59	3,077	3,042	3,151	3,200	3,082
60-69	9,294	9,322	9,722	9,949	10,100
70-79	11,664	11,072	11,712	11,600	11,429
80+	6,734	6,388	6,641	6,250	5,998

[1] Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: One and five-year relative survival with 95% confidence intervals (CI), for males (15-99 years) diagnosed with prostate cancer during 2003-07, England, by age group[1, 2, 3]

	One-year survival			Five-year survival		
Age group	%	95%	CI	%	95%	CI
15-49	96	94	97	81	77	84
50-59	98	98	98	90	90	91

Table 2: One and five-year relative survival with 95% confidence intervals (CI), for males (15-99 years) diagnosed with prostate cancer during 2003-07, England, by age group[1, 2, 3]

	One-year survival			Five-year survival		
Age group	%	95%	CI	%	95%	CI
60-69	98	98	98	91	90	91
70-79	95	95	95	85	84	85
80-99	83	82	83	59	58	60

[1] Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Adult patients aged 15-99.

[3] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

Third Sector

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* residents, *(b)* groups and *(c)* organisations who have participated in each of the Big Society vanguard areas. [46541]

Greg Clark: I have been asked to reply.

The information on the number of groups and residents is not held centrally.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Clergy/Laity

3. **Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what estimate the Church Commissioners have made of the number of *(a)* clergy and *(b)* laity who joined the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church in the last 10 years. [50780]

Tony Baldry: As I said on 1 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 162-63, in response to a question from the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell), figures held by the Archbishops' Council show that in the past five years 14 former Roman Catholic priests have sought to be received into ordained ministry within the Church of England. As there is also discretion at diocesan level for acceptance into the ministry, not all candidates are centrally recorded, so the national figure is likely to be higher. I do not have statistics for the past 10 years and it would be difficult to make a meaningful estimate.

Similarly, in relation to laity the Church does not keep central figures for the movements from one denomination to another, so meaningful estimates are not possible. But the history of the Church of England over the past 500 years illustrates that traffic between denominations is never simply one-way.

The Church of England is happy to welcome people of all denominations, faiths and none to services and events within its churches.

Zurbarán Paintings

8. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what consultation the Church Commissioners have undertaken on the future of the Zurbarán paintings in Auckland castle. [50785]

Tony Baldry: I know the right hon. Member has taken a close interest in this, and I am delighted to have another opportunity to tell the House that the paintings by Zurbarán will be staying at Auckland castle, not least as a result of an extremely generous gesture from Mr Jonathan Ruffer, who has donated the funds necessary to create a Trust, which will buy and maintain the paintings in the castle.

I would like to repeat my thanks to all concerned in putting together this deal, and especially to the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman).

Social Cohesion

10. **Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what assessment the Church Commissioners have made of the potential contribution of Church of England schools to social cohesion between faith communities and between ethnic groups. [50787]

Tony Baldry: In 2009 an independent academic study was undertaken of Ofsted data, which assessed schools' progress on the duty to promote community cohesion and tackle inequality. This study revealed that faith based schools—and church secondary schools in particular—contribute more highly to community cohesion and tackling inequality than community schools.

The findings of this study were then published in a report by the Church of England's Education division.

I will place a copy of the report in the Library for hon. Members to peruse at their leisure.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Prisoners: Enfranchisement

3. **Stephen Pound:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to bring forward legislation on the enfranchisement of prisoners. [50760]

Mr Harper: In light of the strong views expressed in Parliament, the Government have asked that the most recent European Court of Human Rights case against the UK, "Greens and MT", be referred to the Grand Chamber—the higher tier of the Court.

We await the outcome of that referral request.

Electoral Register

8. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to increase the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. [50765]

Mr Harper: Maintaining a complete and accurate electoral register is the responsibility of electoral registration officers (EROs). It is clear that more can be done to support completeness and accuracy. So we have announced plans to speed up the implementation of individual electoral registration in 2014, which will ensure that only those entitled to vote will get on the register. And we are also trialling data matching this year to help identify people missing from the register. If successful, we will consider rolling this out across the country.

Alternative Vote

9. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on preparations for the referendum on the use of the alternative vote system for elections to the House of Commons. [50766]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 received Royal Assent on 16 February, providing the legislative framework for a referendum on 5 May. The Electoral Commission has responsibility for running referendums and is working with electoral administrators to prepare for the poll.

Elected Representatives: Recall

10. **Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his proposals for the recall of elected representatives will apply to local councillors. [50767]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing.

Once a recall system is introduced for MPs, consideration will need to be given as to whether other elected offices in the UK should be subject to the same system.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Feed: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the factors underlying trends in farmgate prices for feed wheat in the last 12 months. [51069]

Mr Paice: UK cereal prices largely reflect the supply and demand situation on the world market. The increase in farmgate prices for feed wheat over the last 12 months is a reaction to the lower wheat production in Russia and other Black Sea countries, and the subsequent implementation of grain export restrictions by Russia and Ukraine. An additional factor is higher energy prices, which have pushed up farm input costs such as fuel and fertiliser.

Animal Welfare

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her international counterparts on animal welfare standards in countries from which the UK imports food; and if she will make a statement. [50395]

Mr Paice: The Government view animal welfare as a matter of high priority. As well as promoting high animal welfare standards in this country, we are keen to encourage high animal welfare standards internationally, both in other European Union countries and in third countries.

On an EU level, discussions were held at the EU Agriculture Council on 21 February, where the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs refused to accept an attempt by some EU member states to delay a ban on battery cages for laying hens, due to be implemented in 2012. Although there have been no other recent discussions at ministerial level, the UK Government continue to make it clear that we will not support requests for derogations from or delays to the introduction of higher welfare standards in the EU.

In terms of animal welfare standards in countries outside the EU from which the UK imports food, we are working with countries within the World Organisation for Animal Health to develop and progress internationally recognised standards of animal welfare. Bilateral agreements between the EU and its main current and prospective trading partners provide an opportunity to promote high welfare standards, although the EU cannot refuse on welfare grounds to honour market access rights conferred under World Trade Organisation rules.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* statutory and *(b)* parliamentary processes required to be satisfied before any cull of badgers in England can be implemented; what assessment she has made of the minimum time within which such requirements can be completed; and if she will make a statement. [50528]

Mr Paice: The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 provides for licences to be granted to kill or take badgers for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease.

No decision on badger control has yet been taken. We received a large number of responses to the public consultation on "Bovine Tuberculosis: The Government's approach to tackling the disease and consultation on a badger control policy", which closed on 8 December 2010. We are carefully considering the responses and we will announce our decision as soon as possible, as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB eradication programme for England.

Farmers: Supermarkets

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of supermarket codes of practice on the prices paid to farmers; and if she will make a statement. [50396]

Mr Paice: The purpose of the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) is not to oversee the price paid to farmers and as such no assessment of its impact on the prices paid to farmers has been made.

When the Competition Commission investigated the groceries market it found that large retailers with buyer power could transfer excessive risks and unexpected costs to their direct suppliers, which was likely to reduce suppliers' incentives to invest in new capacity, products and production processes. If unchecked these practices would ultimately have a detrimental effect on consumers. In response the Commission introduced the GSCOP.

The Government will be introducing a Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) to monitor and enforce the GSCOP. The Commission found that very few farmers supplied retailers direct. However, the Government have decided to allow direct and indirect suppliers of groceries to complain to the GCA, on an anonymous basis, when they believe that they may have suffered from an alleged breach of the GSCOP.

The Government believe that the setting of prices is a commercial matter to be resolved by private negotiation, which should take place within the parameters set by competition law. The market should determine prices.

Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps her Department plans to take in response to the recommendation from the Sustainable Development Commission that it should produce a strategy to increase fruit production; [49718]

(2) what plans she has to respond to the recommendation from the Sustainable Development Commission that her Department should produce a strategy for sustainable food production; [49760]

(3) what plans she has to respond to the recommendation from the Sustainable Development Commission that her Department should produce a strategy to reduce the levels of grain foodstuffs used in the meat and dairy industry; [49761]

(4) what plans she has to respond to the recommendation from the Sustainable Development Commission that her Department should work to create local food partnerships to meet local sustainability targets. [49762]

Mr Paice: The Sustainable Development Commission ceased its activities on 31 March 2011 prior to its formal closure. We are working with the food industry and across Government to ensure that we have a sustainable food industry capable of dealing with a growing population and changing climate while protecting biodiversity. The Foresight report on Global Food and Farming Futures has given us a roadmap for how to go forward with this in conjunction with governments around the world.

The taskforce on barriers to increasing fruit and vegetable production and consumption reported in August 2010 and agreed an action plan in October 2010. The Taskforce consisted of industry leaders including growers, retailers, researchers, and health advisers. They propose continuing the upward trend of UK production of indigenous fruit over five years to meet 50% of consumption. Consumption had grown from 33% in 1998 to 38% 10 years later. Both the SDC and the taskforce acknowledge that the UK will never be totally self sufficient in fruit, especially fruits such as bananas and citrus.

Although swill feeding is banned, EU legislation permits the use in feed of certain low-risk foodstuffs, such as surplus bread, cakes, confectionary (not containing ruminant gelatine), vegetables and fruit, which are no longer intended for human consumption, provided they are only sourced from food manufacturing sources or retail establishments and procedures for adequate separation can be established preventing any contact with meat, fish and other animal by-products.

A significant amount of local food activity already exists, working to address local concerns about health, sustainability, social cohesion and the economy. Such activity ranges from very small scale, such as community gardens, to larger scale producer networks, food hubs and small businesses, such as box schemes. I recently met with the English Food and Drink Alliance, which consists of regional food groups and initiatives working across the food chain, to understand how they are working. I also urge Local Enterprise Partnerships, where appropriate, to encourage local food hubs, which bring growers, processors and small food businesses together in sustainable operations. In addition, the Plunkett Foundation will soon be launching the findings of Social Enterprise Action Research funded by Government to explore the role of social enterprise in food policy in England.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to implement the terms of the Food 2030 plan since May 2010. [49898]

Mr Paice: This Government are taking practical action to support British farming, encourage sustainable food production and help to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the whole food chain. This will ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food with improved standards of animal welfare. To meet these objectives, since May 2010, we have taken the following actions:

UK Action

Government Buying Standards will be published in the next few weeks which will, for the first time, set out what constitutes healthier and more sustainable food and catering services for the public sector.

Established the industry-led Task Force on Farming Regulation which will identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden for all farm sectors.

Invested £13.6 million of Government funding for collaborative research, with matching contributions from industry, through the Technology Strategy Board's first call for research under the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform (co-funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and DEFRA).

A taskforce on barriers to increasing fruit and vegetable production and consumption reported in August and agreed an action plan in October 2010.

The Groceries Code Adjudicator will be established very soon, which will help to strike a balance between farmers and food producers getting a fair deal, and supermarkets ensuring their customers are getting the high-quality food they want at a price they can afford.

Encouraged Local Enterprise Partnerships and local development hubs as vehicles to encourage local food hubs which bring growers, processors and small food businesses together.

Continued engagement with consumers (e.g. via Love Food Hate Waste) and work with industry (e.g. via the Courtauld Commitment) to prevent food waste arising wherever possible.

Reviewed all the farming and food advisory groups across DEFRA and reduced down to one group focused on the issues facing farming, food and rural communities.

Funded research to support sustainable food production by developing options to reduce negative impacts on the environment and support biodiversity. Also research to develop the evidence base on sustainable, healthy diets.

Produced an Aquaculture Plan for England setting out how the industry will develop itself, including a review of relevant regulations as part of this process.

Launched 'Fishing for the Markets' which looks to encourage consumption of under-utilised, sustainable species that are often discarded.

Made commitments on uplands including a guarantee that 100% of hill farmers eligible to enter Uplands Entry Level Stewardship—the key environmental management scheme—will be able to do so, which would be worth up to an extra £6 million a year from within the Rural Development Programme for England

(RDPE). Also, creation of an "Uplands Theme" in the new delivery arrangements for the socio-economic elements of RDPE to target support to hill farmers, details of which will be announced later in the year.

Global Action

Set out actions for Government after publication of the recent Foresight Report 'The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and Choices for Global Sustainability' including an international workshop on food waste.

Provided £2.9 billion towards tackling issues related to land use and food production abroad, with a significant amount of this money to be used for addressing illegal logging, deforestation and ensuring forestry contributes to climate change mitigation.

Commissioned an evidence study to map the UK's palm oil consumption to understand how far the commitments that businesses have already made to sustainable sourcing will take us, and to consider whether further action is needed. Also convened (jointly with the Netherlands Government) a meeting with business leaders to discuss how to mainstream sustainable palm oil.

In the ongoing EU negotiations on new food labelling rules, we have successfully extended the current text to include compulsory origin labelling to fresh and frozen meat with the possibility of further extension to other foods.

Forestry Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has held meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss her Department's policy on the future of *(a)* the Forestry Commission and *(b)* Forestry Commission land. [44021]

Mr Paice: I have had meetings with a number of ministerial colleagues on the future of the Forestry Commission and the public forest estate.

Forests

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of woodlands and forest areas in the ownership of the Forestry Commission which do not have public access rights. [47775]

Mr Paice: The public forest is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 3(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

Statutory access on foot to the land in freehold ownership is protected under the provisions of the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 and in the New Forest under the Law of Property Act 1923. The freehold area that does not currently have statutory access protected amounts to less than 10,600 hectares. This comprises around 120 separate deeds.

Of the land in leasehold ownership 55,168 hectares have no legally protected access rights. This comprises around a further 570 separate deeds.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number and proportion of UK listed companies which have reported on their greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with her Department's guidance in 2009-10. [51330]

Mr Paice: The report that I submitted to Parliament on 30 November 2010 on "The contribution that reporting of greenhouse gas emissions makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives" refers to the recent Environment Agency report "Environmental Disclosures: The third major review of environmental reporting in the annual report and accounts of the FTSE All-Share companies".

Following the guidance issued by the previous Government, this report found that 99 out of 458 FTSE All-Share companies (22%) reported quantitative information on climate change and energy use in line with that guidance.

Horse Passports

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether officials of her Department have discussed with the European Commission the possibility of a UK derogation in respect of horse passport regulations. [49374]

Mr Paice: Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 allows member states to apply derogations concerning the identification of certain equidae living under wild or semi-wild conditions. In the UK this has been exercised in a number of areas in Wales, and in the New Forest and on Exmoor and Dartmoor in England.

Horses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider the merits of measures to prohibit the long-term tethering of horses. [50660]

Mr Paice: I consider that the existing law already protects horses and other equidae against long-term tethering. Long-term tethering could constitute an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 because it restricts a horse's ability to exercise, to find food and water or to escape from attacks by dogs or extremities of the weather.

In addition to the 2006 Act, DEFRA introduced a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids which includes advice on tethering, and it is one of the priority issues for secondary legislation under the 2006 Act. The code does not contain any offences but it could be used in court as evidence to support a case of poor horse welfare. A copy of the code can be downloaded from the DEFRA website at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/cruelty/documents/cop-horse.pdf

Oak

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on measures to combat acute oak decline; and whether she has made an assessment of the likely effects of the condition on woodland in England in the next 10 years. [50126]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission is leading an ongoing research programme into acute oak decline. Scientists from Forest Research have discovered a number of previously unknown bacteria which they believe are playing a key role. Further work, to obtain a better understanding of the disease, how it spreads, and what other factors might be involved, is continuing.

The Forestry Commission is monitoring the effect of the disease on oak to ascertain the impact that it may have over the next 10 years. Early indications are that on average 25% of trees on susceptible sites show symptoms of acute oak decline. From 2006 to 2010 the number of confirmed incidences rose from eight to 44. Current studies by Forest Research suggest that after one year 1% of the trees showing symptoms had died. Most reports of symptomatic oaks are from the midlands, however reports from south-east England and Wales have also been received.

Rural Development Programme: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to simplify the applications process for claiming funding under the Rural Development programme; and if she will make a statement. [49554]

Mr Paice: I announced in my written ministerial statement on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, that responsibility for delivery of the socio-economic elements of the Rural Development programme for England will transfer from the eight existing Regional Development Agencies to DEFRA. As part of these transitional plans we shall be implementing a more nationally consistent approach to programme delivery including the introduction of application processes which are simplified but also continue to ensure that programme delivery continues to comply with the EU regulations governing the programme. Work to deliver this outcome is currently in progress with the intention of being implemented at the earliest opportunity over the forthcoming year.

Wild Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of snares on wild animals. [50677]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has commissioned a project to look into the extent of use and humaneness of snares. The report has not yet been finalised but is expected later this year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 429W, on asylum: housing, how many of the homes provided to people seeking asylum by local authority consortia under contracts with the UK Border Agency were *(a)* in the private rented sector, *(b)* in accommodation owned or managed by local authorities and *(c)* in accommodation owned or managed by registered social landlords in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [50740]

Damian Green: The accommodation contracts do not stipulate that details relating to the category of property ownership needs to be provided to the UK Border Agency. However, we are able to estimate that the current situation is as follows:

	Percentage of properties		
LA provider	*In private rented sector*	*Owned or managed by local authorities*	*Owned or managed by registered social landlords*
Glasgow CC	0	0	100
NECAS	0	95	5
Y&H Consortium	28	46	26
NW Consortium	0	36	64
Liverpool CC	95	0	5
West Midlands Consortium	2	80	18
Cardiff CC	79	6	15
Swansea CC	0	100	0

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 429W, on asylum: housing, what contingency plans are in place to house people seeking asylum in circumstances where all accommodation provided by local authorities or local authority consortia under contracts with the UK Border Agency is already taken up; and if she will make a statement. [50741]

Damian Green: In the unlikely event that a local authority provider is unable to provide a sufficient amount of accommodation as per the terms and conditions of their contract, the UK Border Agency would utilise capacity available to us through contracts with alternate providers in the same region.

We are satisfied that the capacity available to us across all contracts provides sufficient amounts of accommodation in every region.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 647W, on asylum: housing, what discussions her Department has held to date with providers of accommodation to people seeking asylum in order to establish *(a)* the number of families likely to be subject to a physical move, *(b)* the extent to which this could involve disruption for school age children and *(c)* the mitigating measures that can be put in place; whether any further discussions are planned; and whether the outcomes of such discussions will be made public. [50742]

Damian Green: We are encouraging providers to transfer management of properties thereby allowing the asylum seeker(s) to remain in situ. However, if this is not achievable there are ongoing, daily discussions with all accommodation providers to decide when it becomes necessary to move asylum seeking people as the contracts expire. There are no plans to release the details of these discussions.

We estimate that there are likely to be up to 310 families with children who will be required to move to an alternative property. We are hopeful that children will remain within their current school but can not guarantee this.

As a result of this, UK Border Agency regional directors are personally reviewing cases where there is potential for a move which could disrupt schooling.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 647W, on asylum: housing, what related services and other duties the providers of accommodation to people seeking asylum through contracts with the UK Border Agency provide to those they house; what procedures and guidelines are in place to ensure that such duties are met; and if she will make a statement. [50743]

Damian Green: Details of all the services required under our accommodation and related services contracts are contained within the Statement of Requirements, which is available in the Members' Library and can be accessed from the Home Office public website.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of times a person or family seeking asylum and housed in accommodation provided through contracts with the UK Border Agency was obliged to move home during the period that such accommodation was provided in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [50744]

Damian Green: Moves to alternative asylum support accommodation may be instigated by supported persons, by the UK Border Agency or by accommodation providers themselves. Internal management information suggests that between these three categories, approximately 9,400 households were approved for a move during 2010. This would equate to each household being moved once every two to three years.

British Nationality

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints against British citizens alleged to have been active Wachmänner guards during the Second World War her Department has received in the last five years. [51449]

Nick Herbert: We have no record of any such complaints being received.

The investigation of criminal offences, including those under the War Crimes Act 1991, is an operational matter. Arrangements are in place within the Metropolitan police service for investigating allegations of war crimes in liaison with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and other agencies as appropriate. All agencies take the investigation of war crimes seriously and these arrangements remain under review to ensure that they continue to be effective.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50699]

Damian Green: The Home Department and its associated public bodies has or has had contractual relationships with Lockheed Martin, which concern operational matters or matters relating to national security. It is the established policy of successive Governments not to comment on these matters.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public sector job reduction targets have been set for her Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps she plans to take to meet such targets. [51522]

Damian Green: The Home Office is planning to reduce its total work force by 6,500 (full-time equivalents) over the next four years. Work force plans have been agreed that will support the Department to meet that commitment including reductions over the next 24 months to 28,839 FTE by 31 March 2012 and to 27,237 FTE by 31 March 2013[1].

The precise timing of these planned reductions over the next 24 months will be dependent on the business needs of the department's agencies and the implementation of organisational change.

The Home Office is currently in consultation with its arm's length bodies to establish similar plans for their work force. These are not yet finalised and therefore numbers can not be provided.

The Home Office has implemented two voluntary exit schemes to enable staff to leave the Department. We have a recruitment freeze in place and will continue to reduce substantially numbers of agency workers and contractors throughout the next 24 months. We have introduced a new restructuring, redeployment and redundancy policy which sets out a fair and consistent approach, helping staff to find redeployment opportunities and using redundancy as a last resort.

[1] Note that these figures are total work force, which include permanent civil servants, contractors, agency workers and secondees.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much her Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51423]

Damian Green: The Home Office including its Executive Agencies provides 13,644 mobile communications devices to its officials, comprising of mobile phones, BlackBerrys and mobile Broadband devices for laptops. Expenditure by the Department on mobile telephones and related data services to mid-January of the FY 2010-11 was £2.1 million.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 777W, on departmental public appointments, how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men no longer serve on public bodies sponsored by her Department because of decisions to close, merge or reorganise such bodies taken since her appointment. [51437]

Damian Green: Pursuant to my answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 777W, more detailed information on the number of departmental public appointments affected, or likely to be affected, by decisions to close, merge or reorganise public bodies sponsored by the Department is set out in the following table.

The Security Industry Authority will no longer be an NDPB and the National Policing Improvement Agency is currently being phased out so appointments to these bodies will be dissolved in due course along with the organisations. The Women's National Commission was abolished on 31 December 2010. The three remaining bodies are subject to mergers and a reorganisation and at this stage it is too early to say what the impact on the public appointments to these bodies will be.

Public body	*Reform as published on 16 March 2011*	*Number of male public appointments*	*Number of female public appointments*	*Total public appointments*
Security Industry Authority	No longer an NDPB—Phased transition to new regulatory regime	3	3	6
National Policing Improvement Agency	No longer an NDPB—Currently considering which functions must be delivered nationally and where they should sit in a rationalised national policing landscape, as previously announced	4	0	4
Serious Organised Crime Agency	Merge—Merge functions into the new National Crime Agency, as previously announced	3	1	6
Independent Safeguarding Authority	Merge—Government have announced that ISA and Criminal Records Bureau are to be merged and a new single organisation established	7	4	11
Equalities and Human Rights Commission	Retain and substantially reform—Retain on the grounds of performing a function that requires impartiality, with better focus on its core regulatory functions and improved use of taxpayers' money.	4	10	14
Women's National Commission	Body abolished 31 December 2010 and core functions brought into the Government Equalities Office, ensuring direct Ministerial engagement with women and women's organisations	0	15	15

Departmental Public Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by her Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50174]

Damian Green: No oyster cards, monthly or annual travel cards have been issued by the Home Office to any member of the ministerial team.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the staff vacancy rate in her Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in her Department's budget for 2011-12. [51385]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not capture the number of vacancies held and therefore cannot provide vacancy rates. The business plans for 2011-12 assume minimal external recruitment.

Deportation: Eastern Europe

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* children were deported to eastern European countries outside the EU in each year since 2000; and how many of those deported were victims of human trafficking. [51198]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of women and children who were removed or departed voluntarily to eastern European countries outside the EU in each year from 2004 to 2010. The EU expanded during this period; footnotes in the table indicate when accession countries are included or excluded, according to their accession date.

Removals and voluntary departures[1, 2, 3] of women and children from the United Kingdom to eastern European countries outside the EU[4, 5, 6], 2004-10

		Number of departures
	Women[7]	*Children[8]*
2004	1,970	1,115
2005	1,125	670
2006	1,140	510
2007	805	210
2008	610	140
2009[9]	530	120
2010[9]	550	105

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[4] Figures for all years include: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

[5] The figure for 2004 includes those removed or departed voluntarily to: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia during January—April 2004, but excludes those removed to these countries from May 2004 onwards following their accession to the EU.

[6] Figures prior to 2007 include removals and voluntary departures to Bulgaria and Romania; figures from 2007 onwards exclude those removed to Bulgaria and Romania following their accession to the EU.

[7] Those aged 18 or over at the time of their departure from the UK; excludes cases where age or gender is unknown.

[8] Those aged under 18 at the time of their departure from the UK; excludes cases where age is unknown.

[9] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Destination data have only been collated since 2004; data for earlier years are not available.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research

Since 1 April 2009, decisions about who is a victim of trafficking have been made by trained specialists in designated 'Competent Authorities'. Separate management information indicates that there have been no enforced returns of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking by Competent Authorities returned to any of the eastern European countries outside the EU since 1 April 2009.

New case types were implemented on the UK Border Agency Case Information Database (CID) from 1 April 2009 following the UK's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The UK Border Agency did not capture data regarding victims of trafficking before this date.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* victims of human trafficking were deported to eastern European countries outside the EU in each year from 2000 to 2005. [51199]

Damian Green: 6,295 asylum applicants (including dependants) were removed or departed voluntarily to eastern European countries outside the EU in 2004; and 4,580 in 2005. These figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Destination data have only been collated since 2004; data for earlier years are not available.

Figures for 2004 and 2005 include those removed or departed to the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Additionally, the figure for 2004 includes those removed or departed voluntarily to: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, during January-April 2004, but excludes those removed to these countries from May 2004 onwards following their accession to the EU.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/

Since 1 April 2009, decisions about who is a victim of trafficking have been made by trained specialists in designated 'Competent Authorities'. New case types were implemented on the UK Border Agency Case Information Database (CID) from 1 April 2009 following the UK's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The UK Border Agency did not capture data regarding victims of trafficking before this date.

Disturbances: Greater London

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-32, on disturbances (London), how many people have been charged to date in relation to the protest at Fortnum and Mason on 26 March 2011. [50727]

Nick Herbert: The Metropolitan police inform us that 138 individuals have so far been charged with offences arising out of the occupation of Fortnum and Mason's on 26 March.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 686W, on drugs: misuse, whether her Department plans to undertake research into the effects of the criminalisation of drugs. [50474]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has no plans to undertake research into the effects of the criminalisation of drugs.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* measures and *(b)* indicators she intends to use to assess the effectiveness of the Government's drugs strategy. [50529]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 1 April 2011]*: The 2010 Drug Strategy has two overarching aims: to 'Reduce illicit and other harmful drug use' and to 'Increase the numbers recovering from their dependence'. Relevant data are publicly available that will allow the public to assess how the Government are performing against the strategy's aims. Home Office data on drug use and supply are available on the transparency page of the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/

Data from other Government Departments are available from:

http://data.gov.uk/

With regard to assessing the effectiveness of the 2010 Drug Strategy, the Government are developing plans to evaluate the impact of interventions to reduce demand for drugs, restrict their supply, and support and achieve recovery from drug dependence.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the decriminalisation and regulation of drugs which are currently prohibited. [50532]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 1 April 2011]*: The Home Office has not commissioned or evaluated any research on the decriminalisation and regulation of drugs which are currently prohibited.

Entry Clearances: Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 855-872, on student visas, what assessment she has made of the cost to the economy of reducing the number of international student visas by 80,000. [50630]

Damian Green: An announcement on reforms was made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 855-872. An impact assessment will be published in due course.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 855-72, what definition of *(a)* low-risk countries and *(b)* high-risk students her Department uses. [50800]

Damian Green: For the purposes of enabling a streamlined Tier 4 application process, a low-risk country is defined as one where the UK Border Agency has compiled significant evidence of high levels of compliance and low risk of abuse for students. A list of countries that meet the criteria is contained in the published policy document "Student Visas: Statement of Intent and Transition Measures". A copy is available in the House Library.

For Tier 4 application process purposes we do not hold a list of countries categorised as high risk.

From summer 2011 we will introduce a streamlined application process for certain low-risk students, in general waiving the requirements to provide documentary evidence of maintenance and qualifications at the time of application. The substantive requirements will remain the same, including the 28 day rules for maintenance funds, and students must be able to provide the appropriate documents if subsequently requested.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many university students who entered the UK on study visas in each of the last three years were enrolled on *(a)* science and *(b)* humanities courses. [51333]

Damian Green: Information about the type of course enrolled on by those who have entered the UK on student visas is not held centrally. This information could be obtained only by checking individual visa records at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals for a free multilingual national hotline for the use of *(a)* victims of human trafficking and *(b)* individuals reporting possible instances of human trafficking. [50433]

Damian Green: We have no plans to introduce a human trafficking hotline.

Individuals wishing to report suspicions of trafficking can use the widely advertised Crimestoppers helpline or contact the local police force.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of human trafficking her Department uses. [50434]

Damian Green: The UK uses the definition of trafficking set out in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which we ratified on 9 February 2006.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to assess the performance of each police force in *(a)* tackling and *(b)* investigating offences of human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [50435]

Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government, who are committed to tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery, and to protecting victims.

Our policy on performance is that police leaders should performance manage policing with minimal central interference or prescriptive targets.

However, as an important check within the new accountability structures Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) will continue its vital work. HMIC are close to finalising their new monitoring and risk-based inspection arrangements for 2011-12 and their risk assessment work will allow the Inspectorate to examine any human trafficking risks identified by forces and assess how effectively they respond.

Human Trafficking: Females

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what factors were taken into account in assessing whether a woman had been trafficked into the UK in the period from 2000 to 2005; [51200]

(2) how many staff of her Department were trained to identify victims of trafficking in the period from 2000 to 2005. [51201]

Damian Green: The identification of victims of trafficking is a matter for front-line staff. From 2003 a trafficking toolkit was available to all law enforcement and immigration officers, which contained indicators that assisted practitioners in identifying whether someone was a victim of trafficking. This toolkit is no longer available, but was replaced in 2009.

Human Trafficking: South West England

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police *(a)* investigations and *(b)* raids there were in relation to human trafficking offences in each local authority area in the South West in each of the last five years. [50983]

Damian Green: Information on human trafficking is not held by local authority area.

Immigrants: English Language

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 233W, on immigrants: English language, (1) when verification of the mapping of prospective providers of secure English language tests in relation to conference with the Common European Framework of Reference will *(a)* begin and *(b)* conclude; who has been appointed as the independent expert; and if she will publish the terms of employment of that expert; [50802]

(2) whether her Department has any plans to investigate the historical adherence of the secure English language test providers to the Common European Framework Reference; and if she will make a statement. [50803]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) does not plan to investigate historical adherence of providers of secure English language tests to the Common European Framework of Reference. It will continue to investigate providers believed to be in breach of its published criteria on the provision of secure English language testing.

As part of its current exercise to revise its list of secure English language test providers, the UK Border Agency conducted a verification exercise of the mapping of prospective providers of secure English language tests to the CEFR. Dr North (one of the CEFR co-authors) was invited to play the role of an independent expert on 10 December 2010 and the consultation took place during the second week of March 2011. Dr North was not employed or paid by UKBA and terms of employment did not apply.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence she has received from Secure English Language Test providers on their adherence to the Common European Framework. [50980]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has recently conducted an exercise to revise its list of approved test providers. Organisations bidding to be included in the revised list were required to provide evidence to demonstrate how their testing arrangements mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference. This evidence was assessed by the UK Border Agency, together with an independent expert. The list of successful providers will be announced shortly.

A variety of evidence sources have been received as part of the recent exercise to replace the existing list of test providers. It is not possible to list all of the information received and some of the information is commercially sensitive.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit: Finance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the level of funding of the National Public Order Intelligence Unit since October 2010; [50929]

(2) what arrangements are in place to scrutinise the accounts of the National Public Order Intelligence Unit; [50930]

(3) how much funding the National Public Order Intelligence Unit received from *(a)* police forces and *(b)* her Department in each year since 1999. [50932]

Nick Herbert: The Government assessed funding for all elements of policing as a part of the comprehensive spending review in 2010. Figures provided by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) to the Home Office on previous funding are set out in the following table. The accounts of NPOIU are subject to the receiving authority's audit processes, Government audit and the National Audit Office.

£

	Police forces	*Home Office CT Grant*	*Total budget*
1999-2000	—	—	—
2000-01	—	—	—
2001-02	—	—	—
2002-03	—	—	—
2003-04	2,500,000	—	2,500,000
2004-05	2,500,000	—	2,500,000
2005-06	2,500,000	—	2,500,000
2006-07	2,537,945	—	2,537,945
2007-08	2,593,658	1,686,000	4,279,658
2008-09	2,718,000	3,228,500	5,946,500
2009-10	2,721,119	2,981,700	5,702,819
2010-11	2,803,120	2,081,700	4,884,820

Passports: Biometrics

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance she provides to police forces on the length of time data obtained through the use of facial recognition technology should be held before being destroyed; [50405]

(2) Home Department what guidance her Department issues to police forces on the use of facial recognition technology during incidents of civil unrest; [50584]

(3) how much her Department has spent on facial recognition technology for police forces in each of the last five years; [50585]

(4) whether the Metropolitan police used facial recognition technology during the civil unrest in London on 26 March 2011. [50586]

Nick Herbert: The acquisition and deployment of equipment or technology is an operational matter for individual police forces. The Home Office has neither provided specific funding to forces for facial recognition technology nor issued guidance to forces on the use of facial recognition technology in civil unrest incidents, nor on data retention periods.

Police: Accountability

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish proposals for the administration of the election of police and crime commissioners in England and Wales. [50798]

Nick Herbert: These will be set out in secondary legislation. The Government are working closely with the Electoral Commission, representatives of local government and others to draw up these regulations. Subject to the will of Parliament, they will be issued following Royal Assent to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of electing a police and crime commissioner for the *(a)* South Wales, *(b)* Gwent, *(c)* Dyfed Powys and *(d)* North Wales police authority. [50806]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* As stated in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill's impact assessment, elections for Police and Crime Commissioners England and Wales will cost £50 million in 2012. These estimates are based on the costs of other national elections, and costings are therefore not available for each force area. This sum is being made available separately; it will not come from force budgets.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward proposals to regulate the funding of election campaigns for police and crime commissioners in England and Wales. [50807]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* Yes. These will be set out in secondary legislation. The Government are working closely with the Electoral Commission, representatives of local government and others to draw up these regulations. Subject to the will of Parliament, they will be issued following Royal Assent to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to *(a)* launch and *(b)* fund public information campaigns in (i) England and (ii) Wales on the proposed supplementary voting system to be used where an election of a police and crime commissioner has three or more candidates. [50808]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* The Police Reform and Social Responsibility gives the Electoral Commission a statutory duty to raise awareness of these elections, and how to vote in them, as it currently does for all UK elections.

Police: Demonstrations

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of work undertaken by HM inspectorate of constabulary on the policing of protests; and whether she has assessed the effectiveness of the scrutiny of police actions conducted by that body. [50928]

Nick Herbert: The reports published by HM inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) on the policing of protest, which evolved after the policing of the G20 protests in 2009, recognised that the police service successfully manage thousands of peaceful demonstrations every year, but also identified areas where lessons could be learned. The Government support HMIC's reviews which include recommendations on improving communication with demonstrators, police officers wearing ID at all times during demonstrations and updated guidance and training particularly around containment and use of force. In February 2011, HMIC published a follow-up report which set out the good progress against its earlier recommendations and areas for further development.

Police: Finance

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss funding for police services. [50761]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department meets regularly with ministerial colleagues, including the Deputy Prime Minister, and others, in order to discuss matters of policy.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* the (i) pay, (ii) expenses and (iii) contributions made to environmental protest groups by Mark Kennedy and *(b)* the (i) pay and (ii) expenses of police officers assigned to protect him; and what arrangements were made to account for such costs. [51247]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. The deployment of undercover resources is an operational matter for the police.

Police: Pensions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the implications for police pensions of the recent report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission; and if she will make a statement. [50754]

Nick Herbert: As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his Budget statement on 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 951-66, the Government accepts Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation. The Government recognises that the position of the uniformed services, including the police, will require particularly careful consideration. The Government will set out proposals in the autumn that are affordable, sustainable, and fair to both the public sector workforce and the taxpayer. Any changes to police pensions would be subject to the usual consultation processes with the Police Negotiating Board.

Police: Recruitment

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police forces on the time period for which the assessment results of potential police recruits are valid during a period when police recruitment is suspended. [51261]

Nick Herbert: Police forces should aim to appoint candidates who have been successful at the assessment centre within 12 months of attendance. In some circumstances, this can be extended for a further 12 months.

Police: Surveillance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) to what extent the findings of the review of Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary into the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity is authorised in law will be made public; and whether a report with recommendations will be published; [50738]

(2) whether those conducting the review of Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary into the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity is authorised in law have had any direct involvement in the deployment of undercover police officers within protest groups under the auspices of *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers, *(b)* the National Public Order Intelligence Unit, *(c)* each police force which provided the undercover officers whose authorities are under investigation and *(d)* any other police force or police organisation; [50739]

(3) what the terms of reference are of the review by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary into the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity authorised in law will *(a)* include and *(b)* exclude; and when the full terms of reference will be announced; [50745]

(4) whether the terms of reference of the review of Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary into the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) and how intelligence activity is authorised in law will consider *(a)* undercover officers acting as agent provocateurs, *(b)* undercover officers engaging in sexual misconduct, *(c)* potential breaches of international and European rules on policing, *(d)* the relationship between the NPOIU and the corporate sector and *(e)* the role of UK undercover police officers abroad; [50746]

(5) to whom the review of Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary into the operational accountability of undercover work conducted by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and how intelligence activity is authorised in law will report; and if she will make a statement to the House at the conclusion of the review. [50747]

Nick Herbert: Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) will publish a report of their findings following the review. Any findings which could include operational detail leading to the identification of an undercover officer or to the compromise of covert operations or tactics will be reported separately in a confidential report.

I understand from HMIC that the HMIC review team do not have any team members that have had direct involvement in the deployment of undercover officers by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit. Some members of the team do have experience in the deployment of undercover officers and covert policing. This knowledge is essential in order to fully examine the operational accountability of undercover work and covert policing.

HMIC has included independent oversight into their review in the form of an external reference group comprising representatives from the judiciary, Parliament, academia, the London Assembly, the Home Office, and Liberty. Full details of the membership of this group have already been announced on the HMIC website.

The full terms of reference for the review are to review how intelligence that supports the policing of protest involving criminal activity is prioritised, gathered, assessed and managed by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit by considering:

1. the existing remit of these units and whether they are appropriate for the future;
2. the effectiveness of operational oversight and governance arrangements for these units;
3. the adequacy and resilience of structures, funding, staffing and resourcing of these units and the future requirements;
4. how intelligence activity associated with these units is authorised in accordance with the law including (a) consideration of how the 'proportionality' of covert tactics is determined, in particular the use of undercover officers for collecting intelligence; (b) the process by which covert methods to collect intelligence are tasked and co-ordinated; (c) the process by which covert intelligence is translated into operational activity and, where appropriate, tested through a judicial process; and (d) the training, experience and accreditation of all staff involved in the process;
5. how covert intelligence gathering associated with these units is managed, including the use of undercover police officers;
6. whether existing legislation, and the guidance provided by ACPO, is sufficient to maintain public confidence in managing intelligence about protest activity.

HMIC will be considering within the terms of reference, how covert intelligence gathering associated with these units is managed, including the use of undercover police officers. This will include undercover officers both in this country and when working abroad.

HMIC inspect policing in the public interest and will publish a report with recommendations at the conclusion of the review.

Police: Working Hours

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the budget of police authorities in England and Wales was allocated to remuneration for shift work in antisocial hours in 2010-11. [47366]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 17 March 2011]*: This information is not held centrally.

The Government allocates funding to police authorities as a whole and does not stipulate how these resources should be used. The chief constable and the police authority are better placed to judge local need and prioritise resources accordingly. It is only right that decisions about the use of resources are made locally.

Public Order Offences: Prosecutions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* prosecuted under section 1 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in relation to public protests. [51303]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Section 1(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 provides that a person must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another, and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other. Section 1(1A) states that a person must not pursue a course of conduct involving the 'harassment of two or more persons, which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment, and which' is intended to persuade them (or somebody else) not to do something that they are entitled or required to do or to do something that they are not under any obligation to do.

A defendant who pursues a course of conduct in breach of section 1(1) or section 1(1 A) is guilty of an offence under section 2 of the Act.

The Ministry of Justice court proceedings database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute, statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to separately identify those proceedings under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 which specifically occurred in relation to public protests.

Charging data are not available centrally.

Quilliam Foundation: Finance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans she has for future funding of the Quilliam Foundation by her Department; and if she will make a statement; [45344]

(2) what steps she is taking to prevent the closure of the Quilliam Foundation. [45343]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 March 2011]:* Quilliam has received six-figure funding from the Government for this financial year. Quilliam is welcome to submit a bid for project funding for the next financial year.

This Government will only fund organisations for work that contributes to the delivery of its public policy objectives. As with other areas of public spending, this funding is subject to value for money and effectiveness assessments.

Work Permits

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many out-of-country applications for intra-company transfer work permits her Department approved in each year since 2007. [50290]

Damian Green *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* Tier 2 of the points based system was launched on 27 November 2008. Prior to this date, the entry route for intra-company transfers was the work permit arrangements.

Work permit intra company transfer out of country applications approved in 2007 and 2008.

	Applications approved
2007	38,000
2008	35,700

The 2007 and 2008 figures are rounded, are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or leave to enter.

Intra company transfer visas issued under tier 2 of the points based system from December 2008 to December 2010

	Visas issued
2008 (from December)	47
2009	22,029
2010	29,176

The 2009 and 2010 figures are not rounded, are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health organisations invited to subscribe to his proposed public health responsibility deal on alcohol in England have not yet done so; what assessment he has made of the reasons why each has not subscribed to the agreement; what assessment he has made of the implications of his assessment for future such agreements; and if he will make a statement. [50726]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley) launched the public health responsibility deal on 15 March and to date 182 organisations have signed up to it.

The only organisations who declined to do so because of stated concerns with the alcohol pledges were Alcohol Concern, The British Liver Trust, the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the British Medical Association.

Three others said they hoped to be able to sign up in future. They were Diabetes UK, the Royal College of Physicians and the British Heart Foundation.

The Responsibility Deal is a voluntary agreement and it is up to each organisation to decide for itself whether to sign up.

It is essential that we find new ways to work in partnership with industry and other external organisations to tackle the major public health challenges we face. The Responsibility Deal is one part of our strategy for tackling alcohol misuse and improving public health as set out in the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" published in November 2010. We will publish an alcohol strategy later this year.

Bone Cancer: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the time taken by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to conclude its final appraisal determination announcement for the Mepact treatment for osteosarcoma; and when he expects NICE to announce the outcome of the appraisal. [50588]

Mr Simon Burns: As a stakeholder in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal on the use of Mepact (mifamurtide) for the treatment of osteosarcoma, the Department is routinely kept up-to-date on progress as part of the appraisal process.

NICE has not yet confirmed when it expects to issue final guidance to the national health service.

Care Homes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of deaths in care homes were attributable to *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* clostridium difficile infections, *(c)* malnutrition and *(d)* dehydration in each of the last 13 years; [49797]

(2) how many *(a)* cases of and *(b)* deaths where the death certificate referred to healthcare acquired infections there were in care homes for each type of (i) infection and (ii) care home in each of the last 13 years. [49828]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, Questions asking:

1. How many and what proportion of deaths in care homes were attributable to (a) MRSA, (b) Clostridium difficile infections, (c) malnutrition and (d) dehydration in each of the last 13 years. (49797)

2. How many (a) cases of and (b) deaths where the death certificate refers to healthcare acquired infections there were in care homes for each type of (i) infection and (ii) care home in each of the last 13 years. (49828)

Tables 1 to 4 provide the number and percentage of deaths in care homes where (a) Meticillin-resistant "Staphylococcus aureus" (MRSA) (Table 1), (b) "Clostridium difficile" (C. difficile) (Table 2), (c) Malnutrition or effects of hunger (Table 3), and (d) Dehydration (volume depletion or lack of water) or effects of thirst (Table 4) were (i) the underlying cause of death and (ii) mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in England and Wales, for 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available).

There is no official definition of a Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI). Tables 5 and 6 provide the number of deaths where (a) Meticillin-resistant "Staphylococcus aureus" (MRSA) (Table 5) and (b) "Clostridium difficile" (C. difficile) (Table 6), two specific types of HCAIs, were (i) the underlying cause of death and (ii) mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, for local authority care homes and non-local authority care homes in England and Wales, for 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Copies of the tables will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Death certificates record the place where a person died, but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the care home where a person died. People are often transferred between hospitals, care homes and other establishments, and may acquire infections in a different place from where they died.

The number of cases of healthcare associated infections in care homes is not available. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) publish regular reports about anti-microbial surveillance, HCAIs and their consequences for human health in the UK. These are available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/InfectiousDiseases/AntimicrobialAndHealthcareAssociatedInfections/

Those who die with the conditions specified above are usually already very ill, and it is often their existing illness which is designated as the underlying cause of death. For example, someone with malnutrition or effects of hunger mentioned on their death certificate may have cancer of the digestive tract, which means they cannot eat properly or cannot absorb nutrients; they may have suffered from a stroke or have advanced dementia which can cause difficulties chewing and swallowing; or they may abuse alcohol and so not eat properly. Therefore two sets of figures have been provided: the first showing deaths where one of these conditions was the underlying cause of death, and the second where the condition was either the underlying cause or a contributory factor.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause and place of death are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

In addition, the number of deaths involving MRSA and C. difficile in England and Wales by sex and age are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

MRSA:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13571

C. difficile:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14782

Clostridium

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of clostridium difficile infection was among patients in each NHS organisation in the latest period for which figures are available. [50558]

Mr Simon Burns: "Clostridium difficile" infection (CDI) rates for the year 2009-10, the latest full year for which data are published, are shown in tables which have been placed in the Library. Rates are provided at both national health service acute trust and primary care organisation (PCO) level. The tables provide relevant trust apportioned rates (per 10,000 bed days) for all 167 NHS acute trusts and relevant total rates (per 100,000 population) for all 152 PCOs.

There have been significant reductions in CDIs in the first 10 months of 2010-11. The impact that this has had in lowering rates further within the majority of organisations in comparison to 2009-10 will be available for review when the full year's data for 2010-11 are available in May this year.

Notes:

1. The trust level rates provided are based upon trust apportioned CDI cases only (i.e. all those cases detected four or more days following admission to the acute Trust) rather than all cases. We are thus able to suggest that included cases were acquired during that particular admission.

2. PCO data are however based upon all cases and thus does not identify where the case was acquired.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what objectives on clostridium difficile have been set for each NHS organisation. [50559]

Mr Simon Burns: The "Clostridium difficile" Objectives 2011-12 aim to reduce the variation in infection rates that currently exists in the national health service, bringing the performance of everyone up to the level of the best. Tables of the Objectives set for each NHS organisation for reductions in "Clostridium difficile" infection in 2011-12 have been placed in the Library and will also shortly be made available on the Health Protection Agency website.

When reviewing these tables, it should be noted that the number of infections, both in terms of the baseline number and 2011-12 Objectives set for primary care trusts, incorporate all "Clostridium difficile" infections within the population for which they are responsible, including those infections that have been separately apportioned to the acute trusts within their area.

Departmental Contacts

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the use of DH Mail e-mail addresses on his Department's website was withdrawn and replaced by a new contact page system. [50991]

Mr Simon Burns: The generic departmental e-mail address ('DHMail') has been used for several years as a point of contact for the public. However, as the e-mail address has been picked up by marketing lists and publicised on the internet, the levels of spam and inappropriate correspondence we received reached such a significant volume that an alternative was required. The Department therefore followed the example of other Government Departments by setting up a 'contact us' web form.

Diabetes: Health Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the adequacy of provision of *(a)* NHS diabetes specialists and *(b)* diabetes care and diagnosis facilities. [50390]

Paul Burstow: The diagnosis of diabetes and the care patients receive are provided in a number of settings; general practitioner (GP) practices, community and hospital based facilities. We recognise that diabetes specialist teams in all these care settings play a valuable role in supporting people with diabetes to manage their condition.

Workforce planning is a matter for local determination as local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the healthcare needs of their local population.

Following the NHS reforms, GPs will be responsible for commissioning diabetes services. Their understanding of patients' needs and wishes, along with their clinical knowledge, should ensure that their patients receive the most appropriate and timely care.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to improve diabetes diagnosis following the publication of the NHS Diabetes report, Coding, Classification and Diagnosis of Diabetes. [50459]

Paul Burstow: We recognise that diagnosing diabetes can be complex. We welcome the new guidelines published by NHS Diabetes and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) which are aimed at helping general practitioners (GPs) accurately diagnose diabetes for all patients. The RCGP has a suite of e-learning modules in relation to diabetes ranging from diagnosis to emergency care and newer therapies.

The new audit tools which have also been developed will help GPs to share information and look at similar cases to help to resolve even the most difficult of cases. The RCGP is also following up the recommendations of the report on out of hours training for GPs and looking at ways to expand this training, which would provide opportunities to raise awareness of acute presentations of the complications of diabetes.

Doctors: Manpower

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to increase the number of doctors employed by the NHS. [51135]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently no proposals to increase the number of doctors employed by the national health service. Local NHS organisations are best placed to train and employ the staff needed to meet the needs of their local populations.

Drugs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans to amend the NHS Constitution to include a right of patients to have access to drugs and therapies recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [51463]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Constitution already provides the right for patients to receive drugs and treatments which have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and which their doctors recommend for them.

Currently, this right is underpinned by a statutory funding direction that requires national health service organisations to fund healthcare interventions recommended by NICE within three months of publication of final technology appraisal guidance. In future, and subject to the successful passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, we intend to replicate the effect of this funding direction.

Facial Disfigurement

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* the UK, (b) England, *(c)* the North East, *(d)* Teesside and *(e)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency (i) were born with and (ii) acquired as a result of an accident a severe facial disfigurement. [50868]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

General Practitioners

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in introducing GP commissioning consortia in *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* England. [50509]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority. The Bournemouth and Poole GP consortium has been awarded pathfinder status. In England, there are 220 pathfinders in total.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to enable all willing providers to bid for contracts with *(a)* the NHS Commissioning Board and *(b)* GP consortia. [50653]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's policy is that national health service services should be commissioned from the best providers able to meet patients' needs and deliver value for taxpayers' money. Guidance on the procurement of health services in the NHS has been published since May 2008. This guidance has consistently made it clear that procurement processes, including any evaluation of bids for contracts, must be transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory with equality of treatment for all providers.

We have also consulted on plans to extend patient choice so that patients have greater choice and control over their treatment and care, including choice of provider wherever possible. A key principle of our proposed approach is that 'any qualified provider' should be able to offer services where the provider meets quality standards and accepts the NHS standard contract tariff. Prices would be fixed in advance with money following patients' choices and competition on quality. We will publish our response to the consultation shortly.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what transparency requirements he plans to establish in respect of the awarding of contracts under GP commissioning arrangements. [50654]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill proposes clear statutory duties on commissioners in relation to procurement and in relation to anti-competitive behaviours. A clear set of underpinning rules and guidance will be developed to apply to general practitioner (GP) consortia, so that they have the necessary support to make decisions that are fair and transparent and avoid any perceived conflicts of interest. In addition, the Bill also includes a requirement that each consortium's constitution sets out arrangements for decision-making and managing potential conflicts of interest. The economic regulator will also have powers to intervene if there are concerns that a consortium has not met its duties in relation to fairness and choice or has engaged in anti-competitive behaviour.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of operating *(a)* primary care trusts in the last 12 months for which figures are available and *(b)* proposed GP consortia in the first 12 months of their operation. [50680]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest data from 2009-10 audited accounts show that total net operating costs for primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2009-10 was £85.8 billion. Figures for each PCT are shown in the following table.

The detailed financial regime for the new health system is still being developed. No estimate has been made of the expected operating costs in the proposed general practitioner (GP) consortia in their first 12 months.

A direct comparison between the operating costs of PCTs and the future operating costs of GP consortia is invalid as PCTs' functions will not all transfer across to the new GP consortia. Some functions will pass to the NHS Commissioning Board, local authorities and other bodies.

PCT net operating costs 2009-10

Name	*Net operating costs (£000)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	548,452
Barking and Dagenham PCT	342,413
Barnet PCT	584,529
Barnsley PCT	434,898
Bassetlaw PCT	180,536
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	289,877
Bedfordshire PCT	588,957
Berkshire East PCT	553,035
Berkshire West PCT	620,316
Bexley NHS Care Trust PCT	323,859
Birmingham East and North PCT	716,665
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	282,191
Blackpool PCT	287,672
Bolton PCT	457,110
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	547,225
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	886,547
Brent Teaching PCT	506,092
Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	460,699
Bristol PCT	719,867
Bromley PCT	480,328
Buckinghamshire PCT	694,456
Bury PCT	314,472
Calderdale PCT	329,499
Cambridgeshire PCT	817,316
Camden PCT	519,654
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	689,984
Central Lancashire PCT	739,043
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	503,541
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	858,510
County Durham PCT	956,146
Coventry Teaching PCT	552,898
Croydon PCT	557,119
Cumbria Teaching PCT	831,533
Darlington PCT	174,873
Derby City PCT	445,868
Derbyshire County PCT	1,103,298
Devon PCT	1,169,805
Doncaster PCT	544,715
Dorset PCT	621,051
Dudley PCT	496,333
Ealing PCT	593,933
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	797,842
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	667,403
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	457,065
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	537,799
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,212,687
Enfield PCT	471,559
Gateshead PCT	377,774
Gloucestershire PCT	868,112
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	377,918
Greenwich Teaching PCT	449,412
Halton and St Helens PCT	582,184
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	347,215
Hampshire PCT	1,821,809
Haringey Teaching PCT	477,463
Harrow PCT	331,223
Hartlepool PCT	173,595
Hastings and Rother PCT	322,995
Havering PCT	391,928
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	563,662
Herefordshire PCT	276,174
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	393,328
Hillingdon PCT	390,004
Hounslow PCT	393,689

PCT net operating costs 2009-10

Name	*Net operating costs (£000)*
Hull Teaching PCT	487,382
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	245,435
Islington PCT	442,040
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	401,203
Kingston PCT	249,418
Kirklees PCT	646,478
Knowsley PCT	324,230
Lambeth PCT	635,253
Leeds PCT	1,245,915
Leicester City PCT	528,843
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	883,404
Lewisham PCT	509,516
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,117,027
Liverpool PCT	990,848
Luton Teaching PCT	302,017
Manchester PCT	1,016,984
Medway PCT	425,074
Mid Essex PCT	497,759
Middlesbrough PCT	281,430
Milton Keynes PCT	341,881
Newcastle PCT	503,064
Newham PCT	538,681
Norfolk PCT	1,132,213
North East Essex PCT	512,191
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus PCT	272,576
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	548,793
North Lincolnshire PCT	250,042
North Somerset PCT	317,730
North Staffordshire PCT	334,540
North Tyneside PCT	366,521
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,178,878
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	987,809
Northumberland Care PCT	524,639
Nottingham City PCT	544,618
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1,005,383
Oldham PCT	415,559
Oxfordshire PCT	903,594
Peterborough PCT	286,776
Plymouth Teaching PCT	423,656
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	350,036
Redbridge PCT	395,526
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	246,993
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	280,859
Rotherham PCT	433,775
Salford PCT	458,730
Sandwell PCT	560,835
Sefton PCT	511,611
Sheffield PCT	939,323
Shropshire County PCT	447,657
Solihull NHS Care Trust PCT	314,103
Somerset PCT	808,558
South Birmingham PCT	625,727
South East Essex PCT	529,130
South Gloucestershire PCT	365,920
South Staffordshire PCT	892,270
South Tyneside PCT	294,250
South West Essex PCT	660,316
Southampton City PCT	404,295
Southwark PCT	524,278
Stockport PCT	465,243
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	314,789
Stoke on Trent PCT	500,676
Suffolk PCT	867,082
Sunderland Teaching PCT	534,144
Surrey PCT	1,657,220
Sutton and Merton PCT	611,241
Swindon PCT	292,760
Tameside and Glossop PCT	411,899
Telford and Wrekin PCT	254,492
Torbay Care PCT	248,924
Tower Hamlets PCT	544,453
Trafford PCT	354,025
Wakefield District PCT	601,547
Walsall Teaching PCT	455,159
Waltham Forest PCT	411,261
Wandsworth PCT	561,332
Warrington PCT	315,053
Warwickshire PCT	794,214
West Essex PCT	421,605
West Hertfordshire PCT	821,931
West Kent PCT	992,328
West Sussex PCT	1,236,479
Western Cheshire PCT	408,186
Westminster PCT	521,132
Wiltshire PCT	639,603
Wirral PCT	597,434
Wolverhampton City PCT	438,309
Worcestershire PCT	817,362

Source:
PCT Audited Summarisation Schedules 2009-10

Health Research Regulatory Agency

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what timetable he has set for the commencement of operations at the Health Research Regulatory Agency; [50707]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the time taken to approve clinical trials. [50708]

Mr Simon Burns: A range of measures to streamline health research regulation and improve the cost-effectiveness of clinical trials are outlined in 'The Plan for Growth'.

The Government will create a health research regulatory agency to combine and streamline the approvals for health research, which are at present scattered across many organisations. This will improve the timeliness of decisions about clinical trials. The agency will be established in the first instance as a special health authority, with the National Research Ethics Service as its core, during 2011.

The new agency will work closely with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to create a unified approval process and promote proportionate standards for compliance and inspection within a consistent national system of research governance.

From autumn 2011, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding will become conditional on organisations playing their part in the national research governance system. The Government will launch a framework of standard procedures and good practice for local health research management—the NIHR Research Support Services framework—by May 2011. Recipients of NIHR funding will regularly publish metrics on their performance in initiating and delivering health research. When deciding on funding, the NIHR will take account of performance against public NIHR benchmarks, including an initial benchmark of 70 days from receipt of a valid research protocol to recruitment of the first participant in a study.

Hospitals: Blood

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bedfordshire have (i) 24-hour and (ii) seven-day cover for gastrointestinal bleeding; [50939]

(2) what information his Department holds on hospitals which have *(a)* 24-hour and *(b)* seven-day cover in respect of gastrointestinal bleeding. [50941]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local national health service organisations are best placed to determine the work force and services required to deliver safe patient care.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions he plans to make to provide for adequate low-volume services for *(a)* inflammatory bowel disease and *(b)* other chronic conditions. [51462]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill currently being considered by Parliament has proposed devolving responsibility for commissioning some national health service health care services to general practitioner (GP) consortia and establishing an independent and accountable NHS Commissioning Board, which will support GP commissioning and hold GP consortia to account.

GP consortia will commission a range of services that best meet local needs including inflammatory bowel disease where necessary. The NHS Commissioning Board will produce commissioning guidelines, and seek Quality Standards from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to ensure patients receive high quality services. The NHS Commissioning Board will commission those specialist services currently commissioned both nationally and regionally based on the services described in the Specialised Services National Definitions Set, which will include some low volume services.

Medical Technology

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to encourage the innovative use of medical technologies in the NHS. [51467]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is very aware of the role innovative medical technology can play in the delivery of the reforms to the national health service. This is why the Department is keen for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to continue its role in assessing medical technologies through the recently established Evaluation Pathway programme. This is designed to provide guidance to the NHS and to help it adopt efficient and cost-effective medical devices and diagnostics more rapidly and consistently.

The Department is also committed to continuing the NHS Life Sciences Innovation Delivery Board, which was set up to look at ways in which the relationship between the life sciences industries and the NHS can be improved and support the rapid adoption of innovative technologies. Furthermore, the Department is keen to build on the Innovative Technology Adoption Procurement Programme—known as iTAPP—which is seeking to speed up the adoption of a number of key medical technologies into the NHS through the National Technology Adoption Centre.

Medical Treatments

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of NHS patients were voluntarily in receipt of medication at home at the point immediately before such provision was made compulsory in the latest period for which figures are available; [50623]

(2) how many departments of NHS hospitals require patients to receive medication via a home delivery service. [50624]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of patients in receipt of medicine through the medicine homecare delivery service or the number of national health service hospital departments which operate such services is not held centrally. Contracts are awarded by individual NHS trusts for such services to specialist contractors and some medicine manufacturers operate their own schemes for homecare delivery, most commonly in such therapy areas as HIV, renal, rheumatology, haematology, immunology, oncology and metabolic disorders.

Midwives

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age profile was of NHS midwives in each year from 2002 to 2008. [50387]

Anne Milton: The age profile of midwives employed in the national health service in England between 2002 to 2008 is as follows:

Headcount

	Under 25	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65 and over*	*Unknown*
2002	571	1,467	2,542	4,811	4,705	3,372	2,380	1,495	348	13	1,545
2003	682	1,586	2,405	4,524	4,990	3,584	2,466	1,592	404	25	1,683
2004	671	1,707	2,279	4,255	5,224	3,943	2,594	1,738	473	46	1,914
2005	648	1,949	2,238	3,798	5,224	4,225	2,752	1,716	532	63	1,663
2006	559	2,034	2,281	3,339	5,167	4,386	2,920	1,779	591	57	1,356
2007	549	2,102	2,366	3,142	5,098	4,623	3,139	1,750	689	70	1,565

Headcount

	Under 25	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65 and over*	*Unknown*
2008	640	2,187	2,401	2,968	4,787	4,757	3,313	1,798	717	91	2,005

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

National Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure: Research

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the progress of the National Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure in removing barriers to research and innovation within the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [51465]

Mr Simon Burns: The purpose of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) is to maximise the contribution of the NIHR-funded clinical research infrastructure for health research and patient benefit; and for the nation's international competitiveness as a location for applied clinical research.

NOCRI is discharging this function by facilitating cross-NIHR funded facility co-operation on scientific, technical and process challenges, supporting the spread of bureaucracy-busting measures led by other areas of NIHR and leading on the development of model agreements, e.g. the recently published NIHR/Medical Research Council model Industrial Collaborative Research Agreement to streamline contracting for research partnerships between industry, universities and the national health service.

NOCRI is supporting research funders big and small in the life sciences industry and charities by helping them to navigate the research environment to find suitable individuals or organisations to support their research needs.

NOCRI was established in December 2009 and its managing director took up post in May 2010. It would therefore be premature to assess its full impact.

NHS

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the application of state aid in the NHS following the re-establishment of Monitor as an economic regulator. [50942]

Mr Simon Burns: We are currently assessing whether and to what extent European Union state aid law will have an impact in the national health service, including what the position will be with respect to a health system that will remain funded by the taxpayer and providing universal coverage, free at the point of need.

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide financial assistance to non-designated NHS organisations and services which do not qualify under EU state aid rules and competition rules. [50943]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill will ensure that essential services are protected as well as setting out a credible regime for managing failure.

Patient care and quality of service is our priority and it will be important to take account of the particular circumstances of a provider or service at a given time. Monitor and the NHS Commissioning Board will play important roles in ensuring a coherent approach across the system and determining when particular providers warrant support or not.

NHS Walk-in Centres

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS walk-in centres there were *(a)* in May 2010 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; what information his Department holds on the number of centres that have (i) reduced and (ii) maintained their opening hours during that period; and if he will make a statement. [50910]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service walk-in centres are the responsibility of the local NHS. It is currently for primary care trusts to decide whether the services provided by walk-in centres continue to meet the needs of patients. Figures are not collected centrally on numbers of centres, nor data on their opening hours.

NHS: Competition

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has received on the effect of the implementation of the any willing provider model on the application of EU competition rules to NHS services. [50679]

Mr Simon Burns: The principle that 'any qualified provider' (previously any willing provider) should be able to offer national health service services subject to patient choice—where the provider meets quality standards and accepts the NHS standard contract and tariff—would not affect the application of competition law. This policy is consistent with the principles of competition law, however, because it seeks to ensure commissioning processes are transparent, non-discriminatory and to avoid restricting choice or competition against patients' interests.

NHS: Expenditure

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of real-terms expenditure on the NHS which will be accounted for by restructuring requirements over the comprehensive spending review period. [50683]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated real-terms expenditure on the national health service, totalled across the four years of the comprehensive spending review period from 2011-12 to 2014-15, is £411 billion. The estimated cost of the Government's plans for modernising the NHS is £1.4 billion, to be incurred in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This represents 0.34% of the total. The changes are estimated to achieve administrative savings of £5.2 billion (or £3.8 billion after netting off the cost) over the comprehensive spending review period, followed by savings of £1.7 billion every year from 2014-15.

NHS: Manpower

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* full-time equivalents were employed in the NHS in 2010. [51227]

Mr Simon Burns: The total number of people employed in the NHS hospital and community health service including general practitioners and general practice staff as at 30 September 2010 was 1,431,557 headcount and 1,186,571 full-time equivalent. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers.

NHS: Procurement

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure an equitable distribution of NHS contracts of greatest monetary value between the private and the public sector. [50678]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have no plans to intervene to affect the distribution of national health service contracts between the private and public sector.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he plans to issue to NHS trusts on the relative assessment of the merits of price and quality when determining the award of contracts under competitive tenders. [50682]

Mr Simon Burns: In future, as now, it will be for commissioners to set the evaluation criteria for the award of competitive tenders in accordance with procurement law. Under the Health and Social Care Bill, commissioners would undertake this procurement in line with regulations that the Secretary of State may issue concerning good practice in procurement. At present, commissioners are expected to follow guidance set out in the "Procurement Guide for Commissioners of NHS Funded Services".

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage greater co-operation between primary and secondary health care professionals as part of his proposals for NHS reform. [50472]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill places a duty on consortia to make arrangements to obtain advice from people with professional expertise. Effective general practitioner (GP) commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people. Primary and secondary healthcare professionals and others, all have a vital role to play and a real opportunity to develop services and improve the health outcomes of their local populations.

Emerging consortia are already recognising the need to involve secondary care professionals. They understand the need for expert clinical advice to understand the intricacies and interdependences between different hospital services.

At its heart, a GP consortium is about a nexus of professional interrelationships, the exercise of peer influence, and professionals taking on direct responsibility and public accountability for the decisions they collectively make.

NHS: Standards

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in the number of NHS targets on the quality of service to patients. [50681]

Mr Simon Burns: We have removed some process targets to give the national health service more freedom to improve outcomes for patients—to measure the results, not just the timescales.

Our reforms will ensure that patients are at the heart of decisions made in the NHS and that the NHS will continue to drive up quality and maintain standards for patients.

Personnel: Pay

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary cost to his Department in respect of *(a)* staff salaries and *(b)* other costs of Monitor has been in each year since its inception; and what estimate he has made of the likely costs in each such case in each of the next five years. [50984]

Mr Simon Burns: A breakdown of funding provided to Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) in respect of staff salaries and other costs since its inception in 2004 is shown in the following table:

Data provided by Monitor

£000

As at 31 March:	*Staff salaries*	*Other costs*
2004	49	3,365
2005	1,380	13,570
2006	2,373	13,792
2007	3,741	9,692
2008	4,482	8,426
2009	5,761	8,762
2010	6,346	9,307

The impact assessment published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill estimates the annual running costs of Monitor at £72 million by 2015-16. At this stage, we do not hold information centrally on estimated annual running costs for Monitor, or an estimated breakdown of expenditure, for each of the next five years.

Prescription Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence follows in instances when the final decision on a drug appraisal process is delayed on more than one occasion. [50587]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. NICE's technology appraisal process guide is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/42D/B3/STAGuideLrFinal.pdf

Quality Innovation Productivity and Prevention

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism his Department proposes to measure progress on the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention agenda; and if he will make a statement. [51468]

Mr Simon Burns: The Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) agenda will support the national health service to make and reinvest up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014-15. Local NHS organisations have identified opportunities to do this as part of the single integrated business planning process set out in 'The NHS Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12'.

In 2011-12, the Department will measure progress on QIPP through this single integrated process.

Respite Care: Disability

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve respite services for families of children with disabilities. [39693]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

This Government have committed more than £800 million in funding over the next four years to local authorities to support the delivery of short breaks. That funding is part of the new Early Intervention Grant.

In order to maintain and protect the delivery of short breaks, I recently laid regulations to ensure that from 1 April 2011 all local authorities are under a duty to provide a range of short breaks services for disabled children and their families. From 1 October 2011 local authorities will be required to publish for parents in their area a 'service statement' which will explain exactly what short breaks are available and how they can be accessed.

My Department recently published a Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability'. The Green Paper proposes a number of ways to improve access to services for children with additional needs. The consultation period ends on 30 June 2011. More information is available at:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

Roaccutane

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the risks associated with isotretinoin and its prescription for teenagers and young adults. [50444]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency continuously monitors the safety of all medicines on the market.

Isotretinoin is subject to annual European safety assessments which review all safety data including adverse reactions suspected to be associated with isotretinoin. These assessments include the detailed assessment of adverse reactions in patients aged between 12 and 18. The latest review was completed on 28 March 2011 and concluded that the overall balance of benefits and risks remains positive.

Science: Health

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who will be responsible for advancing his Department's evidence-based cost-benefit risk analysis to inform the appropriate model of regulation for the healthcare science workforce; what timetable has been set for the recommendations of the analysis to be made public; and which stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the analysis; [47293]

(2) what methodology his Department plans to use to ensure that the diversity of the disciplines covered by the healthcare science workforce is taken into account in its analysis of the regulation of that workforce. [47294]

Anne Milton: In line with the overall Government approach to the extension of professional regulation, as set out in the Command Paper "Enabling Excellence", the extension of statutory regulation to currently unregulated professional or occupational groups, such as some groups in the healthcare science workforce, will only be considered where there is a compelling case on the basis of a public safety risk and where assured voluntary registers are not considered sufficient to manage this risk.

We have therefore asked officials to begin discussions with the Health Professions Council and the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence about the timetable for creating an assured voluntary regime and any interim arrangements that may be required.

Social Services: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is taking steps to ensure that funding it has provided to the NHS for adult social care is used for that purpose. [51147]

Paul Burstow: The Government have announced various funding streams, including as part of the 2010 spending review, which have been allocated to the national health service in order to support social care and improve joint working between the two systems.

Details about this funding have been set out in a letter from David Behan and David Flory to NHS and local authority chief executives, which can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/
Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_123460

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library. The following table summarises the funding which has been allocated for joint working.

		£ million		
Purpose	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*How the funding should be used*
Development of post-discharge support and re-ablement services	70	150	300	To work with local authorities to develop local re-ablement capacity, according to local plans submitted to strategic health authority (SHAs) in December 2010. Funding may be transferred to local partners or pooled budgets. It is for local discretion, the proportion of spend on the NHS and social care.
To support social care services	162	648	622	Funding must be transferred to local authorities, to spend on social care services which also benefit health. Primary care trusts and local authorities should jointly agree how the funding should be spent and the outcomes to be achieved.

As part of the NHS planning process for 2011-12, the Department will seek assurances from SHAs that arrangements are in place for funding to be transferred to local authorities and that plans have been jointly agreed between NHS organisations and their local authority partners for delivery of services in line with the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12.

The allocation for the next four years will continue to rise considerably, in recognition of the pressures that local authorities will face and the importance Government places on social care. £1 billion by 2014-15 will be made available for social care through grant funding from the Department. This funding will be allocated on top of the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15.

Social Services: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in the number of social workers on *(a)* children at risk, *(b)* disabled children and *(c)* carers. [41041]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

Social workers play a key role in protecting and supporting children, including children at risk and disabled children, their families and carers. It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that they employ an appropriate number of social workers with the right skills and experience to provide high quality and timely social care services in their area.

Data on the number of social work staff employed by local authorities are collected and published annually by the NHS Information Centre in its Personal Social Services Staff of Social Services Departments England return (SSDS001). The latest available data, published on 31 March 2011, provide information on the number of social work staff as at 30 September 2010. This publication shows that, at 30 September 2010, the number of social work staff employed by local authorities had grown steadily over the previous decade. Further information is available on the NHS Information Centre at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/personal-social-services-staff-of-social-services-departments-england-at-30-september-2010

South London Healthcare NHS Trust: Land

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the potential sale of land owned by South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [50752]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received no representations on the potential sale of land owned by South London Healthcare NHS Trust since January 2011.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust: Restructure

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the potential restructuring of South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [50753]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received no representations on the potential restructuring of South London Healthcare NHS Trust.

Strokes: Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect of introduction of the any willing provider model on access to post-stroke physiotherapy services. [50422]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's intention in introducing any qualified provider (AQP) (previously any willing provider) is to increase the choice and control patients have over their care and treatment. The Department is continuing to develop AQP policy, and initial implementation guidance will be published later in the spring.

Surgery

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of the NHS research budget was spent on research into surgical procedures in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [51464]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimated spend by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on directly-funded research relating to surgery in 2009-10 was £7.3 million. This was 1.9% of total directly-funded NIHR research, and 0.9% of total expenditure from the NIHR revenue budget. In addition, the NIHR clinical research network provided national health service research infrastructure support to a wide range of trials and other clinical studies in surgery.

Visual Impairment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to allow optometrists to refer patients with *(a)* cataracts, *(b)* diabetic retinopathy, *(c)* glaucoma and *(d)* wet age-related macular degeneration for secondary care. [50655]

Mr Simon Burns: Direct referral from optometrists to ophthalmic hospitals is already provided for in the General Ophthalmic Services Contracts Regulations 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Assets Programme

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to assist community organisations who wish to purchase assets of community value. [50543]

Andrew Stunell: We are considering what assistance communities might need in helping to bid to take over their valued assets to support the take-up of the Community Right to Buy provisions in the Localism Bill. We are seeking views on this as part of the current consultation into the details of the scheme.

This Department already funds the Asset Transfer Unit, led and managed by Locality (formerly the Development Trusts Association). The ATU provides guidance and support to community groups acquiring public assets under powers for local authorities to transfer assets at less than market value. The ATU has supported the completed transfer of 17 assets to community organisations in the last 12 months.

In addition, the CommunityBuilders programme is another existing source of help for community organisations who want to improve their sustainability by acquiring assets. This fund has recently been endowed to ensure maximum value for money and flexibility.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to assist community organisations with the community asset transfer process. [50600]

Andrew Stunell: The Government-funded Asset Transfer Unit provides information, advice and expertise for community organisations on the asset transfer process. Their website:

www.atu.org.uk

includes access to information and case studies on community asset transfer and the programmes they run on behalf of Government. Guidance and toolkits they have developed to support community asset transfer are also available, such as a legal toolkit to assist community groups and local authorities; guidance on community-led open spaces, exploring transfer of parks and green spaces; transferring heritage assets; community-owned libraries; making buildings work for your community through design and refurbishment; and The Place Station:

www.theplacestation.org.uk

an online interface which enables individual citizens and communities to engage with asset owners and entrepreneurs.

Community Development

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that expressions of interest in the provision of public services under his proposed community right to challenge may not be accepted from groups with extreme political or social agendas; and if he will take steps to assist relevant authorities in identifying and excluding such groups from the bidding process. [50899]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* Local authorities must comply with all relevant legislation including equalities and human rights legislation when exercising their functions. This will apply to the exercise of functions by a relevant authority that may arise under, or be related to, the proposed community right to challenge, in particular, the procuring and monitoring of services.

We are currently consulting on proposals for implementing the community right to challenge, including the statutory grounds on which an expression of interest may be rejected by a relevant authority, and whether there are issues on which the Department should provide guidance. This is available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/righttochallengeconsultation

Community Development: Religion

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislative and other provisions provide that religious organisations which win contracts to deliver public services under his proposed community right to challenge do not discriminate in the provision of such services. [50900]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 4 April 2011]:* Under the Equality Act 2010 any organisation delivering a service—whether following a procurement exercise under the community right to challenge or otherwise—will need to deliver the service in a way which eliminates discrimination, harassment or victimisation of either the service user or potential service user. Delivering to a person a service which is of less quality or delivering it in a manner or on terms not usually provided to the general public would also constitute an offence.

As public authorities, relevant authorities under the community right to challenge will also need to have regard to this Act and in particular to these considerations in commissioning, procuring and monitoring services—whether this occurs as a result of the right to challenge, or otherwise. They will want to ensure that contracts they enter into for service provision include adequate safeguards to enable them to meet these obligations and others, such as arise under the Human Rights Act.

Construction: Standards

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had on the Accredited Construction Details (ACDs) scheme; and when he expects to approve a scheme for ACDs that meets the conditions set out in Approved Document L1A, paragraph 5.12a. [51029]

Andrew Stunell: My officials have been working with industry, and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service on the development of practical authorisation criteria, both technical and management, for such a scheme. Draft scheme requirements are now being reviewed in advance of formally inviting potential scheme operators to come forward, with a view to having accredited schemes in place as soon as possible in support of the 2010 changes to the energy efficiency requirement of the Building Regulations.

Council Tax

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority in England collected the lowest proportion of council tax in 2009-10 according to records held by his Department. [50662]

Robert Neill: According to QRC4 returns submitted to the Department by all billing authorities in England, which show receipts of 2009-10 council tax by 31 March 2010 as a proportion of net collectible debit, Manchester collected the lowest percentage of council tax in 2009-10 at 90.9. This represents a shortfall of £11 million a year of funding in the 2009-10 financial year. Collection rates for all authorities are shown in table 5 of the statistical release "Collection Rates for Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates in England 2009-10" at the following address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1620281.pdf

Enterprise Zones: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the establishment of a Greater Peterborough enterprise zone; and if he will make a statement. [51318]

Robert Neill: At Budget, the Government invited 11 local enterprise partnerships to come forward with proposals for enterprise zones, and announced that a further 10 would be sought from open competition.

Greater Peterborough, as part of the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough local enterprise partnership will therefore be able to submit a bid for an enterprise zone as part of that competition.

Fire Services

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to produce a new Fire and Rescue Services National Framework following the expiry of the framework for 2008 to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51317]

Robert Neill: An announcement on the national framework will be made shortly as part of the Government response to the fire and rescue sector led Fire Futures reports, a copy of which will also be made available for the Library of the House. The existing national framework remains in force until it is replaced.

First-Time Buyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support home ownership and first-time buyers. [50663]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friends the Member for Aberconwy (Guto Bebb) and the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), on 4 April. 2011, *Official Report*, columns 729-730.

Green Belt

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Financial Statement of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 956, what steps he plans to take to ensure protection from development for green spaces. [50110]

Greg Clark: We are taking substantial steps to help communities protect green spaces from development. Councils have been given stronger powers to prevent unwanted garden grabbing; national green belt protection will be maintained; regional spatial strategies will be abolished including their top-down targets and we will create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Homelessness

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of introducing *(a)* a two-stage discharge of the homelessness duty into the private rented sector and *(b)* an interim tenancy in order to allow local authorities to determine whether accommodation is sustainable. [50671]

Grant Shapps: The Localism Bill contains provisions to allow local housing authorities to fully discharge the main homelessness duty with offers of accommodation in the private rented sector without requiring the applicant's agreement. It will provide for an assured shorthold tenancy of a minimum of 12 months, and for protection against repeat homelessness for up to two years (regardless of priority need).

A two-stage or interim tenancy discharge would require an initial assured shorthold tenancy of six to 12 months while the homelessness duty is still owed, before the duty could be ended with a further 12- month tenancy. This would offer no greater protection than the measures in the Localism Bill, would be unnecessarily complex and could, for some, mean a longer wait in expensive temporary accommodation. It would also effectively require private landlords to offer a minimum 18-month tenancy and responses to the "local decisions: a fairer future for social housing" consultation indicated that this would not be practical.

Existing safeguards in the homelessness legislation already mean that the local authority must, by law, consider whether the accommodation is affordable in determining whether it is suitable for the applicant and their household's particular needs. This is in addition to considering its size, its condition, its accessibility and also its location.

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department expects local authorities to take to prevent homelessness. [50417]

Grant Shapps: Homelessness prevention and housing options services are now standard practice for local authorities. This is in recognition of the cost effectiveness and benefits for households of preventing homelessness whenever possible. Effective prevention measures include support to access private rented housing, family mediation and debt advice. Options offered will depend on local circumstances and priorities. Local action to prevent homelessness among single people plays an important role in preventing rough sleeping.

We have announced Preventing Homelessness Grant allocations of £81.5 million each year for local authorities in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This is part of our commitment to maintain the level of investment in homelessness grant for local authorities and the voluntary sector, with provision of £400 million in total over the next four years.

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to increase the level of compliance by local authorities with their duty to offer advice and assistance to those who are homeless in respect of single people. [50449]

Grant Shapps: If a local housing authority is satisfied that an applicant is eligible, unintentionally homeless but not in priority need, then they have a duty to provide advice and assistance to help them in any attempts to secure accommodation for themselves. This is a statutory duty that local authorities are obliged to comply with. A failure to comply with statutory duties is challengeable through the courts.

We have maintained the level of investment in homelessness grant, providing £400 million over the next four years. We have established a Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness which brings together eight Departments to tackle the complex causes and improve support for single homeless people. We are providing £10 million grant funding to Crisis over three years to improve the support available at local level to help single homeless people access private rented accommodation.

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of requiring local authorities to discharge their homelessness duty through a landlord accreditation scheme when using the private rented sector. [50670]

Grant Shapps: Many local authorities already run successful landlord accreditation schemes. These are used in a variety of ways and experience shows that accreditation works best where the local authority has developed the scheme in response to local needs and the local rental market. If landlords with suitable properties decide not to become members of an accreditation scheme, this could reduce a homeless household's chances of finding a good home.

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System together with extensive enforcement powers for local authorities exist to make sure that any private rented sector property meets an appropriate basic standard.

Existing safeguards in the homelessness legislation also apply before the homelessness duty can be brought to an end. The authority must be satisfied, by law, that the accommodation is suitable for the applicant and his or her household. This includes considering whether the accommodation is affordable for the applicant, its size, its condition, its accessibility and also its location.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to assist homeless people. [51036]

Grant Shapps: We have established a Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness bringing together eight Government Departments to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people. A new approach to evaluating rough sleeping levels has been introduced so that there is clear information in all areas, to inform service provision and action to address the problem.

Despite the record deficit we inherited, we are maintaining investment in homelessness grant, with £400 million over the next four years. This will be made available to local authorities and the voluntary sector to support their work to tackle homelessness. This includes funding for Crisis to help support single homeless people to access settled housing in the private rented sector. We have made an additional £190 million available for discretionary housing payments and other forms of practical support alongside the Government's package of welfare reform measures.

I also refer the hon. Member to my letter of 20 October 2010 on the spending review's settlement for housing, which includes our plans to build more affordable homes and renovate poor quality social housing. A copy of the letter is available in the Library of the House.

Housing: Construction

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he is providing to local authorities on ensuring an adequate supply of housing. [50393]

Robert Neill: Local planning authorities, working with their local communities, are best placed to understand how much housing is needed and to decide the most sustainable locations for growth. Planning policy statement 3: Housing and the Government's Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment guidance and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment guidance can help local authorities to assess the need for housing and identify land for housing development.

Furthermore, we announced in the Plan for Growth that we will produce a shorter, more focused and inherently pro-growth national planning policy framework to deliver more development in suitable and viable locations. This will include planning for new housing. The framework will be published for consultation in the summer.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimate is of the average carbon dioxide emission of *(a)* a new home built in 2016 according to the provisions of the code for sustainable homes and *(b)* a new home built in 2016 on the basis of accountability by the house builder only for those carbon dioxide emissions that are covered by building regulations. [50534]

Andrew Stunell: On average a semi-detached home built to 2010 Building Regulation standards will emit 2.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum from all energy use in the home. Of this, 1.3 tonnes will be from emissions subject to the Building Regulations (i.e. emissions from heating, hot water, lighting and any other fixed building services but not emissions from the use of appliances). The new definition of zero carbon homes requires house builders to mitigate these emissions to ensure that, in net terms, they are reduced to zero. This is the equivalent to the energy standard in level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

On top of this, to meet the energy standard in level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, emissions from appliances, such as televisions and hairdryers, have to be reduced, in net terms, to zero. However, emissions from appliances are also subject to a suite of other policies including the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and policies to increase the energy efficiency of appliances and the operation of these policies, cumulatively and in combination with the new definition, should have the result that the carbon footprint of new homes does not add to overall carbon reduction burdens.

The Code for Sustainable Homes continues to be supported by the Government and goes far wider than just an energy-based definition of sustainability. House builders can, if they wish, still seek to achieve the Code level 6 energy standard through their own measures.

Housing: Energy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will *(a)* issue guidance on and *(b)* bring forward legislative proposals to establish the minimum (i) standard assessment procedure and (ii) energy performance ratings required of existing housing stock. [50712]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are introducing the Green Deal in late 2012 to provide the means for households to improve their energy efficiency voluntarily. The Government are encouraging uptake through measures such as improving the advice and recommendations made to householders in Energy Performance Certificates, and working with social landlords to encourage large scale Green Deal retrofit schemes.

In the private rented sector, where there remain a significant proportion of properties with an F and G performance rating, the Energy Bill legislation includes a measure to enable the introduction, from 2015, of a requirement on private landlords to

(i) agree to reasonable requests from tenants for energy efficiency improvements and

(ii) to improve the energy efficiency of all F and G rated homes.

Any such measure would be conditional on upfront finance being available, for example through the Green Deal, to landlords for any such works and there being no net negative cost for landlords.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for *(a)* a strategy on and *(b)* collection of statistics on the energy performance of existing archetypes of existing housing stock in England in order to develop investment plans for future housing stock to meet obligations under the Climate Change Act 2008. [50713]

Andrew Stunell: The Government already collect statistics in the English Housing Survey on the long-term trends in the energy performance of homes in England by property type. This can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingsurveys/englishhousingsurvey/

Furthermore, the Energy Bill currently before Parliament contains measures to make more accessible the data contained in the register of energy performance certificates, which will enable more detailed analysis of the installed measures and carbon reduction potential in homes with energy performance certificates. This information will support the targeting of the Green Deal, the Government's policy for enabling investment in the energy efficiency of homes at no up-front cost to householders.

Housing: Newcastle

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to improve housing availability in the Benwell and Scotswood area of Newcastle. [50704]

Andrew Stunell: As set out in the coalition programme for government, we are promoting decentralisation and democratic engagement by giving new powers to local councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals, with new fiscal incentives for local authorities to develop housing. In reforming planning through the Localism Bill, we intend to abolish regional strategies and their associated top-down development targets, and introduce neighbourhood planning, to give communities a greater say in planning where housing growth should go.

Our package of fiscal incentives includes the New Homes Bonus which will give communities a significant incentive to build the homes they need by matching the council tax for the following six years. Additionally, we are investing nearly £4.5 billion over the next four years to deliver up to 150.000 new affordable homes. Key to this is the introduction of an "Affordable Rent" product which will give housing associations greater financial capacity to develop new affordable homes.

Infrastructure: Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers he plans to transfer to the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit. [50577]

Greg Clark: The Government have committed to transferring decision making on major infrastructure to Ministers. This is provided for through the Localism Bill, which transfers the responsibilities and powers of the Infrastructure Planning Commission to the Secretary of State. The Government have also said they will create a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit within the Planning Inspectorate to take on the day-to-day administration of the major infrastructure planning regime. The Planning Inspectorate is an Executive agency of the Department, and is capable of undertaking work in the name of the Secretary of State, so no formal transfer of powers to the unit is necessary.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: North East England

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations are members of the North East Economic Partnership. [50244]

Robert Neill: The North East Economic Partnership is neither a Government body, nor a local enterprise partnership, and therefore central Government do not play a role in determining its membership.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to Northumberland county council in each of the last five years. [51353]

Robert Neill: The total grant funding allocated by the Department of Communities and Local Government to Northumberland county council (from 2009-10, Northumberland unitary authority) is as follows:

Northumberland

	£000
2005-06	236,791
2006-07	100,014
2007-08	103,453
2008-09	127,478
2009-10	170,171

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of:

formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates)

specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (ie revenue grants paid for council's core services) (only includes grants from this Department)

specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (only includes grants from this Department)

Area Based Grant (from 2008-09), and

'other grants' provided by all Government Departments.

These figures are taken from revenue outturn forms provided by authorities after the end of a financial year. Figures for formula grant, Area Based Grant and other grants are aggregated grants for all Government Departments.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology. For example, the large apparent reduction in Northumberland's funding between 2005-06 and 2006-07 is due principally to the transfer of Dedicated School Grant (£150.5 million in 2006-07) from Formula Grant to Specific Grants inside Aggregate External Finance (from another Department).

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will work with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Review Group to examine alternative reforms to achieve long term sustainability of the LGPS. [51478]

Robert Neill: The Local Government Pension Scheme Policy Review Group is engaged in developing its collective response to the recommendations made by Lord Hutton in his recently published report on public service pension scheme reform. This includes the central objective of maintaining the long-term sustainability of the scheme, its affordability and fairness to employers and taxpayers.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the funding raised by additional employee contributions to the local government pension scheme will not be used to improve the financial security of the scheme. [51479]

Robert Neill: Regulatory adjustments being considered to the existing local government pension scheme employee contribution tariff will improve the viability and affordability of the scheme, and its fairness to employers and taxpayers.

Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance and information he plans to provide to *(a)* private house developers and *(b)* landowners on changes to the planning system. [50392]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to putting local councils, communities and local firms in the lead when it comes to delivering growth through a reformed planning system. We announced in the Plan for Growth that we will produce a shorter, more focused and inherently pro-growth national planning policy framework to deliver more development in suitable and viable locations. The framework will be published for consultation in the summer.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms exist to resolve disagreements in and between communities in the determination of planning issues matters. [50465]

Greg Clark: Communities are consulted extensively as part of the Local Development Framework, which provides the opportunity of resolving disagreements between communities over the future shape of development in their areas. The provisions in the Localism Bill introducing neighbourhood planning will further empower communities to work together to create a positive vision for their local area.

Controversial planning applications are considered by locally elected councillors who assess the merits and demerits of proposals based on the evidence and prevailing planning policies.

In addition, there is a statutory period of public consultation on all planning decisions, where communities have the opportunity to express views about specific development proposals. The Localism Bill will reinforce this ability for communities to influence the planning process through the introduction of a new duty upon developers to consult communities prior to the submission of larger planning applications.

Planning decisions are made in accordance with the statutory Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Regional Planning and Development

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on the level of house-building of the abolition of regional spatial strategies. [50369]

Greg Clark: Under the last Government house building rates fell to their lowest peacetime levels since 1924. Regional targets clearly failed to build the right number of homes in the right places. Removing targets and replacing them with effective incentives, including the New Homes Bonus and Community Infrastructure Levy, will encourage local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing and economic growth and to deliver sustainable development.

House building starts in England in the first three quarters of 2010-11 were 23% higher than in the comparative period in 2009-10 (62,720 starts rising to 77,240) (DCLG, "House Building; December Quarter 2010", February 2011, Table 1a).

The Government published an impact assessment of the abolition of the regional planning tier and introduction of the Duty to Co-operate on 31 January, available on the Department's website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1829659.pdf

Rents

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the principle that a tenant's rent is only spent on the services provided by the landlord. [50847]

Andrew Stunell: The proposed abolition of the subsidy system does not end the requirement for local authorities to maintain a statutory ring-fenced housing revenue account. They will still be required to account to their tenants for income and expenditure on council housing separately from other functions and services. This ensures that council taxpayers do not subsidise services specifically for the benefit of tenants and that rent is not used to subsidise functions which are for the benefit of the wider local community.

Solace: Finance

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public bodies for which he is responsible provided to (i) Solace and (ii) Solace's associated companies in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [50373]

Robert Neill: The amount paid to the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and its associated companies by the Department for Communities and Local Government, its agencies, non-departmental public bodies, and other arm's-length bodies is shown in the following tables:

2008-09

£

DCLG Organisation	*Solace*	*Solace Foundation*	*Solace Enterprises*	*ACE*	*Total 2008-09*
DCLG	1,763	—	30,429	—	32,193
Government Offices	—	—	—	—	—
Tenant Services Authority	—	—	—	—	—
Local Government Ombudsman	203	—	—	—	203
Homes and Communities Agency	—	—	—	—	—
Standards Board	1,891	—	1,208	2,150	5,248
Planning Inspectorate	—	—	—	360	360
Ordnance Survey	70,500	—	—	—	70,500
Audit Commission	—	8,950	—	—	8,950
Total	74,356	8,950	31,636	2,510	117,452

2009-10

£

DCLG Organisation	*Solace*	*Solace Foundation*	*Solace Enterprises*	*ACE*	*Total 2009-10*
DCLG	1,242	—	—	—	1,242
Government Offices	794	—	18,000	—	18,793
Tenant Services Authority	11,949	—	—	—	11,949
Local Government Ombudsman	203	—	1,003	—	1,204
Homes and Communities Agency	—	—	517	—	517
Standards Board	6,598	—	2,530	2,232	11,360
Planning Inspectorate	—	—	—	370	370
Ordnance Survey	70,000	—	—	—	70,000
Audit Commission	5,721	5,000	—	—	10,721
Total	96,506	5,000	22,048	2,602	126,156

Where figures have been rounded, there may be a slight discrepancy between the total and the sum of constituent items.

Sports Clubs

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to promote the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme. [51218]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government currently has no plans to promote the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme to local authorities, although we recognise this as an excellent opportunity for community-based amateur clubs to benefit from a range of tax reliefs, including Gift Aid.

Sports Facilities

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what ways neighbourhood plans will confer extra protection on sport and recreation facilities. [50601]

Greg Clark: Research commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport into the regulatory burden on sport and recreation clubs was published in March 2011 ("Red Card to Red Tape—How sports clubs want to break free for bureaucracy"). It recommended that neighbourhood plans should consider the provision of sport and recreation facilities.

The Localism Bill will allow communities to set out how important sport and recreation facilities should form part of their neighbourhood plan, which, if adopted, becomes part of the development plan.

Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors he plans to take into account in developing a definition of sustainable development for use in the planning system. [49721]

Greg Clark: Current policy on the sustainable development principles that should underpin planning decisions is contained in Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development. The National Planning Policy Framework will consolidate and simplify the suite of existing national policy and guidance, and we will consult on a draft in the summer. That draft will also take into account responses to a consultation on the content of the National Planning Policy Framework, and will reflect the Government's vision for sustainable development announced by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 28 February this year.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Nigel Adams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 919W, on tenancy deposit schemes, (1) what *(a)* guarantees, *(b)* underwriting, *(c)* liabilities and *(d)* obligations were agreed in relation to support for the three tenancy deposit protection schemes under the previous Administration; [38765]

(2) what assessment he has made of the financial stability and integrity of each of the three tenancy deposit protection schemes, including the effect of low interest rates on their integrity, since May 2010; [38766]

(3) what steps he has taken since May 2010 to ensure that tenancy deposit schemes can meet their financial liabilities. [38767]

Grant Shapps: The three tenancy deposit protection schemes are operated by private companies under service concession agreements with my Department. All three schemes are designed to be self-financing.

The service concession agreement that was agreed by the previous Administration with the custodial tenancy deposit protection scheme contained a guarantee that the Government would meet any shortfall arising if approved fees were not covered by the interest on deposits held. That guarantee was removed as part of a revised agreement negotiated in August 2010 which also incorporated a four year extension of the original agreement.

Neither of the two insurance based tenancy deposit protection schemes' agreements have ever included any similar government guarantees, underwriting, liabilities or obligations.

Voluntary Organisations: Non-domestic Rates

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will encourage local authorities to offer rate relief to voluntary community organisations. [50639]

Robert Neill: Charities are generally entitled to 80% mandatory business rate relief. Local authorities must grant that relief where the relevant eligibility criteria have been met.

In addition, councils have a power to offer discretionary rate relief. They can offer up to 100% rate relief to non-profit making organisations. Central Government funds 75% of the cost of discretionary rate relief.

While the granting of discretionary rate relief is ultimately a decision for the local authority, I believe it has an important role to play in supporting the local voluntary sector, recognising the public benefit that voluntary groups give to their local community. We would expect local authorities to take full account of the central Government funding support for discretionary rate relief in making their decisions.

Certain voluntary organisations may also be eligible for small business rates relief which we have doubled until 30 September 2012. Eligible organisations with rateable values below £6,000 will pay no rates for that period.

Moreover, I have recently corresponded with the London borough of Camden on the issue of discretionary rate relief to the innovative People's Supermarket, as outlined in my Department's press notice of 3 March 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [50842]

Mr Duncan: The following table shows the number of staff who have taken early retirement, under the provisions of the civil service compensation scheme, from the Department for International Development in each of the last five financial years.

The following table shows total capitalised costs (including annual compensation payments or early/enhanced pensions) which are recorded against the year in which the retirement was approved.

Financial year	*Number of early departures*	*Total cost (£000)*
2006-07	19	2,478
2007-08	50	5,587
2008-09	14	2,147
2009-10	29	3,853
2010-11[1]	18	[2]1,337

[1] Costs yet to be finalised

[2] Approximately

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's commitment to agriculture and food security made at the G8 L'Aquila Summit has been disbursed to date; and under what budget headings it has been spent. [50873]

Mr Duncan: In the fiscal year 2009-10 the Department for International Development (DFID) had disbursed 32% of its total pledge of £1.1 billion to global food security and agriculture. DFID is, therefore, on track to meet its commitment made at the 2009 G8 summit held at L'Aquila. The £352 million disbursed in the 2009/10 fiscal year is comprised of the following:

Budget heading	*Spend (£ million)*
Agriculture, Agro-industries, Forestry and Fishing	116.1
Development Food Aid and Food Security Assistance	26.4
Transport and Storage projects where the main purpose is to promote food security	8.8
Rural Development projects	51.5
Contribution through multilateral channels	149.7

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has for the use of the remaining funds from its commitment to agriculture and food security made at the G8 L'Aquila Summit before the 2012 deadline. [50874]

Mr Duncan: The recent bilateral and multilateral aid reviews have set out the results which DFID will deliver in the next four years. In summary, it is envisaged that we will stop 10 million more children going hungry and ensure a further four million people have enough food throughout the year.

We anticipate working directly on food security in a small number of countries including Ethiopia, (South) Sudan, Zimbabwe and Burma. In other countries including Rwanda, Kenya and Malawi we will deliver programmes which improve the livelihoods of rural people and the enabling environment for small holder food producers. We will also continue to support multilateral agencies with a mandate on food and nutritional security. Agriculture will continue to be a major focus for DFID's Research and Evidence Division, which has increased its support for agriculture by 60% over the last three years.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of generic drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS in developing countries; and what his policy is on the *(a)* international trade and *(b)* intellectual property issues involved in the supply of such drugs. [51034]

Mr Duncan: The UK remains committed to the goal of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. This includes working with both originator and generic pharmaceutical companies to ensure that safe, affordable and effective drugs are available. Increasing value for money in terms of price, quality, market security and product suitability for developing country use is paramount. We are working with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria, UNITAID and other partners to encourage a more strategic approach to shaping international anti-retroviral markets.

With regards to international trade and intellectual property issues involved in the supply of generic medicines, we stated in our recently published White Paper 'Trade and Investment for Growth' that we would seek to ensure that provisions on intellectual property rights in EU free trade agreements did not have negative impacts on the ability of the poorest to access low cost medicines. Further, legitimate generic products of assured quality should not be detained unnecessarily while in transit.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51406]

Mr Duncan: In financial year 2010-11 the Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following:

Category of spend	*2010-11 figure (£)*
Recruitment agency fees	[1]1,254,961
Outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff	25,950
Staff training	[2]3,140,519

[1] This figure represents the total paid to recruitment agencies. These payments were for the services of temporary staff and included both payment to the individual and a fee to the recruitment agency. It is not possible to disaggregate this figure.

[2] This figure represents payments to training providers for staff training and professional development for DFID staff, including staff appointed in country (SAIC).

Overseas Aid: Publicity

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to publicise its reasons for increasing official development assistance to 0.7 per cent. of gross national income by 2013. [51494]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have taken every opportunity to publicise this Government's commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance (ODA) from 2013, and to explain the results that British taxpayers should expect to see from this investment. The commitment was published in the coalition programme for government and the comprehensive spending review. I have reaffirmed this commitment is several speeches, both in the UK and overseas. Last month saw the publication of 'UK Aid: Changing Lives, Delivering Results', which set out clearly the pressing needs in developing countries, and how meeting the 0.7% target will transform lives.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Capital Punishment

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British Ambassador to Burma has raised with the government of Burma the circumstances of the execution on 19 November 2010 by Border Guard Force soldiers of a 75 year old man from Dtra Greh township, Pa'an district, Karen state. [50631]

Mr Bellingham: We were concerned to read the Karen Human Rights Group bulletin which reported this incident. Our embassy in Rangoon is speaking with groups in Burma to corroborate the report. Our ambassador regularly raises with the Burmese authorities the Government's serious concern over the regime's human rights violations.

Burma: Politics and Government

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of attacks by the Burma Army on civilians in the Manorone area of Ta Naw Tha Ri township, Karen state. [50709]

Mr Bellingham: The Government were concerned to read of the Free Burma Rangers report and other reports from February which documented the aftermath of attacks on Karen communities, and the Burmese regime's continuing persecution of and violence towards ethnic groups such as the Karen. The UK helped secure a robust resolution at the March UN Human Rights Council which called on the Burmese regime to take urgent measures to end their violations of international human rights and humanitarian law including the targeting of civilians in ethnic areas.

Burma: War Crimes

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on EU support for a UN commission of inquiry into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma. [50553]

Mr Bellingham: The Government most recently discussed the prospect of a UN Commission of Inquiry in Burma at official level with other EU member states in March 2011. Officials have in recent weeks also raised this issue bilaterally with Swedish, Danish, Dutch, Irish and Lithuanian counterparts. The Government continue to support the UN Special Rapporteur's recommendation for the UN to consider the idea of a Commission of Inquiry, and is working with other countries to build international support.

Departmental Secondment

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department are on secondment to *(a)* a business organisation and *(b)* a charitable or non-governmental organisation. [50916]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold a central record of all its staff working on secondment with outside organisations as staff may also take special unpaid leave (SUPL) from the FCO to take up these appointments. Staff on SUPL are not counted as FCO employees for the duration of these appointments and their locations are not tracked.

However, there are nine FCO staff on formal secondment to business organisations.

EU Action

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of the Government is on the examination of the scientific evidence presented by the European Commission in support of legislative proposals presented to the Council of Ministers. [49143]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that European legislation should be based upon a strong evidence base, including, when appropriate, scientific evidence. In this context we support President Barroso's intention to appoint a Chief Scientific Advisor. We also welcome a strengthening of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in providing robust scientific and technical advice to support development and implementation of EU legislation.

It should also be noted that evidence presented in support of EU legislation will be examined by the UK and, where necessary, challenged well before any legislation reaches the European Council. For proposals which do go to Council it may be that scientific arguments will previously have been discussed at working groups of member states including the UK. The lead Department in the UK will have assessed the evidence presented by the Commission and may have presented its own evidence to the Commission. Scientific evidence is therefore thoroughly examined but final decisions do take into account broader issues and a range of evidence, not always principally scientific, may be offered in support.

Exports: Dairy Farming

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to support the development of export markets for UK dairy producers *(a)* in the Far East and China and *(b)* elsewhere. [50862]

Mr Bellingham *[holding answer 4 April 2011]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the response from the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) on 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1115W.

Government Communications

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the operating costs of the Research, Information and Communications Unit in the Home Office *(a)* was met by his Department in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 and *(b)* will be so met in 2010-11. [47323]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the response from the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 458W.

Haiti: Politics and Government

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Haiti following the time taken to announce the outcome of the Presidential elections. [50973]

Mr Bellingham: We continue to underline the need for all Haitian parties to continue to demonstrate their commitment to a free, fair and transparent electoral process. We understand that the delay in announcing the preliminary results is due to the Haitian Provisional Election Council (CEP) making additional checks of the vote tabulations. 14 May 2011 is the date set for the inauguration of the new President. It is vital that this date does not slip, as any political vacuum or loss of momentum would threaten the continuity of the reconstruction efforts so essential to Haiti's rehabilitation. The Organisation of America States Caribbean Community Election Observation Mission will give its considered opinion of the conduct of the Second Round in the coming weeks. We, along with others in the International Community and in Haiti, will draw important conclusions from that assessment about the state of Haitian democracy. It is vital that the next President works in the interests of all the Haitian people to continue the important task of reconstruction.

Ko Mya Aye

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Burma on the *(a)* detention of and *(b)* access to medical treatment of Ko Mya Aye. [50632]

Mr Bellingham: Our ambassador to Rangoon most recently reiterated the need to release all political prisoners, especially those in poor health such as Ko Mya Aye, on 26 January 2011 during a meeting with Burmese officials in Naypyitaw. Our embassy regularly raises concerns over prison conditions with senior regime officials and works with prisoner support networks and non-governmental organisations to assist the families of prisoners who ask for our assistance. The Government helped secure a tough resolution at the Human Rights Council in March 2011 which called for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK humanitarian aid flights have landed in Libya since UN Security Resolution 1973 was adopted; and how much aid has been delivered. [50636]

Alistair Burt: No UK aid flights have landed in Libya since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1973; however the UK is providing assistance and protection to the people of Benghazi through our funding of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The UK is providing £2 million to ICRC, enabling it to provide medical teams to treat and provide medical supplies to 3,000 people in Libya affected by the ongoing fighting. The ICRC will also provide food and supplies to 100,000 of those most in need.

Lack of access by humanitarian agencies makes it difficult to give a comprehensive view of humanitarian needs in Libya. However, to date humanitarian agencies have reported no widespread, urgent humanitarian needs in Benghazi. In eastern Libya more generally, people have access to food, water and electricity, although there remain pockets of specific needs. Disruption to regular supply chains also risks causing shortages of basic items. Medical supplies are reaching eastern Libya and hospitals are functioning but stretched, with some staff shortages. Throughout Libya we have serious concerns for the protection of civilians.

Over 12,000 people have been repatriated from the borders with Libya on UK-funded flights. Blankets and tents also delivered by the UK provide shelter for up to 10,000 people. UK funded air operations specialists are helping co-ordinate repatriations as part of our efforts to prevent logistics difficulties in Tunisia and Egypt becoming a humanitarian crisis.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the ability to deliver humanitarian assistance to Benghazi following the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya. [50637]

Alistair Burt: Since the adoption and enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 1973 a number of agencies have returned to, or established operations in Benghazi, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières and International Medical Corps. However the situation remains precarious and the conflict poses an ongoing risk to humanitarian access, with the situation changing day to day.

Benghazi is also being used as a hub for the onward delivery of assistance. The World Food Programme is using it as an entry point for food aid and the Interim Transitional National Council has been able to forward aid from Benghazi to the besieged city of Misrata.

The prime concerns in Libya now are for people caught up in the fighting: attacks on civilians, medical needs of the wounded and sick, and those displaced by fighting, as well as access for humanitarian agencies.

Libya: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs his Department has incurred in chartering aircraft to Libya in 2011. [48937]

Alistair Burt: Our provisional cost is £1 million. This will not be confirmed until the Foreign and Commonwealth Office receives final invoices.

Libya: Politics and Government

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the detention by Libyan authorities of Iman al-Obaidi; and if he will make a statement. [50971]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is aware of this case, which on 30 March 2011 the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has described as:

> "shocking to the whole world"

and as one which demonstrates the Gaddafi regime's:

> "absolute disregard for any understanding of human rights".

Miss Iman al-Obaidi's claims must be investigated thoroughly, and if she is indeed still being detained, she should be freed and given access to legal representation.

Libya: Students

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the effects of financial sanctions on Libya on Libyan students who are living and studying in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [51162]

Alistair Burt: The Government have been careful to implement the UN sanctions regime so as to minimise any adverse effects on Libyan students in the UK. We are working with the universities and the Libyan People's Bureau in London to get a fuller picture of who may be adversely affected by the sanctions.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with banks to ensure that Libyan students who are living and studying in the UK are not disadvantaged as a result of financial sanctions on Libya; and if he will make a statement. [51163]

Alistair Burt: The Treasury has issued licences to enable payments to be made in respect of students in the UK who are sponsored by Libyan entities whose assets have been frozen. Such payments include educational, living and maintenance costs incurred by sponsored students.

Somaliland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit Somaliland on official business. [50406]

Mr Bellingham: We are not able to publicise plans for future visits for security reasons. The Government regularly engage with the Somaliland Government, both in London and in the horn of Africa region. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell) visited Somaliland on 31 January 2011.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official visits Ministers in his Department have made to Somaliland in the last five years. [50407]

Mr Bellingham: There have been no visits by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers to Somaliland in the last five years.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had at EU level on Somaliland. [50408]

Mr Bellingham: The EU Foreign Affairs Council on 21 March 2011 adopted Conclusions on Somalia. These included agreement that the EU would aim to enhance its support to regions of Somalia, such as Somaliland, and remained committed to peace, stability and democracy.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had at UN level on Somaliland. [50409]

Mr Bellingham: I attended a UN Security Council Open debate on Somalia on 11 March 2011 in New York. During this debate, the UN Security Council agreed to urge the International Community to provide additional support to the Transitional Federal Government, local and regional administrations, including Somaliland, to develop government institutions, strengthen civil society, prevent and resolve conflict, and take forward socio-economic reconstruction.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* emails and *(c)* other items of correspondence on the status of Somaliland his Department has received in each of the last 12 months. [50412]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office receives regular e-mail correspondence on the status of Somaliland, making it difficult to give precise figures. In the past 12 months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received at least 15 letters from members of the public and 12 letters from Members of Parliament on the status of Somaliland.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings officials in his Department have had with officials from Somaliland in the last five years. [50413]

Mr Bellingham: We hold regular meetings with the Somaliland administration at official and ministerial level both in the UK and in the Horn of Africa region, including in Somaliland. Recent examples include official level meetings during President Silanyo's visit to London in November 2010, the visit of the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s Director for Africa to Hargeisa in March, and meetings in the margins of a Somaliland Investment Conference, organised by the FCO and the Anglo-Somaliland Chamber of Commerce, in London on 31 March 2011.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to support the Big Society initiative. [42649]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a strong tradition of voluntary work, ranging from individuals getting involved with their local communities to whole Departments undertaking voluntary activities in the UK and throughout our overseas network.

The FCO actively supports public and private voluntary service by its staff through allowing both paid and unpaid special leave to undertake voluntary activities. The amount of time given varies according to the nature of the activity, but all employees are offered up to five days paid special leave a year to volunteer. Examples of some of the voluntary activity undertaken by individual members of staff granted special paid leave are:

Independent Custody Visitor, reporting findings of unannounced visits to detention centres

Youth Educator, Envision Project

Participation in reintegration project for young ex convicts

Facilitation of Royal Commonwealth Society Commonwealth Youth Summits

Event promotion for Croydon Community Against Trafficking

In addition, in 2010 FCO staff in London and at 55 posts overseas ran a mile as part of Sport Relief and raised over £43,000 for 60 charities in the UK and overseas.

The Big Society approach is also reflected in the activities of our posts around the world in empowering local communities. Many of our staff overseas have given up their time to help local community projects, and have assisted charitable organisations through donations and fund-raising activities. The 'Speed Sisters' project in Palestine is an example of a project where, by providing financial and practical support to a Palestinian women's racing team that had been struggling to compete, our consulate staff were able to challenge widely held views of women in the middle east.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made by the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [51250]

Mr Bellingham: The Special Investigator announced in April 2010 that 18 months would be a reasonable time for the criminal investigations to be completed.

The Special Investigation and Prosecution Team (SIPT) continues to make progress and reports regularly to a Strategic Oversight Group (SOG), that includes the Turks and Caicos Islands Chief Executive and the Commissioner of Police.

It is part of the SOG's remit to ensure that the SIPT works efficiently, keeps within a justified budget and pursues a sound investigation strategy. The SIPT's reports to the SOG include information on the timing of critical operational matters. This information is highly confidential, and would be regarded as such in any major criminal investigation.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential implications for UK policy of the departure from office of President Saleh of Yemen before any transfer of power to a new administration. [49732]

Alistair Burt: UK policy in Yemen remains to encourage and assist the development of a unified, secure, democratic and prosperous Yemen.

To this end, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence work closely together under a comprehensive strategy which aims to help the Yemenis tackle economic and security issues in parallel with broader issues of political representation.

The UK will welcome and support any decision of the people of Yemen to deepen their democratic structures. The UK remains a friend to the people of Yemen and remains committed to helping to improve Yemen's stability, economic development, the implementation of human rights, the reduction of conflict and the degradation of terrorism.

Any issue relating to the presidency and possible change of power are properly a matter for the Yemeni people. We continue to watch developments closely.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Planning

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 182W, on Heathrow airport, if he will set out each relevant Government policy that is to be taken into account as a material consideration where a planning application is made for expansion of an airport. [45231]

Mrs Villiers: There is no fixed list of national policies which are material considerations whenever airport expansion is proposed. The circumstances and the potential impacts of the development will not always be the same. It is for the decision-makers in any planning case to decide which factors are relevant to the case, and how much weight to attach to each. Individual policies in a planning policy statement or planning policy guidance note might be a material consideration in one case, but have no bearing in another.

Aviation: Noise

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the fitting of silencers to small planes. [49777]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* Most light aircraft are required to meet international standards on aircraft noise and will be fitted with some form of silencer to provide basic reduction in noise from the engine's exhaust system. In addition, enhanced silencers have been developed for many light aircraft types.

The responsibility for the certification of small aircraft is dependent upon the type of aircraft. For those that fall under the provisions of Regulation (EU) 216/2008, the Basic Regulation, the responsibility rests with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). However, for small aircraft EASA will largely validate the certification carried out by the State of Design, e.g. the USA. The configuration of the aircraft to meet noise requirements is generally achieved as part of the aircraft design process.

For aircraft that do not fall within EASA's remit the UK CAA is responsible for those aircraft that are registered in the UK. At present, homebuilt aircraft are not required to conform to the noise requirements.

Aviation: Olympic Games 2012

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which private air fields, flight schools and leisure flight operators will be within the exclusion zone during the London 2012 Olympics. [51230]

Mrs Villiers: The recently announced London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics airspace restrictions are intended to apply to the following aerodromes marked on the 1:250000 Aeronautical Chart:

Andrewsfield
Ascot
Audley End
Battersea Heliport
Benington
Bicknor Farm
Biggin Hill
Blackbushe
Boreham
Damyns Hall
Denham
Dunsfold
Dunstable Downs
Duxford
Earls Colne
Egerton
Elstree
Fairoaks
Farnborough
Farthing Corner
Fowlmere
Gerpins Farm
Graveley
Halton
Harpsden
Henlow
High Easter
High Wycombe
Hunsden
Hurley Lodge
Jackrells Farm
Jenkins Farm
Kenley
Kirdford
Laddingford
Laindon
Lamberhurst
Lashenden
Lewknor
Linton
Lippitts Hill
London Colney
Meppershall
Napps Field
North Weald
Nuthampstead
Old Hay
Panshanger
Plaistow
Rayne
Redhill
Ridgewell
Rochester
Rush Green
Russells Farm
Rydinghurst
Southend
Spring Farm
Stapleford
Stoke
Thurrock
Waits Farm
Warlingham
Wethersfield
White Waltham
Willingdale
Wycombe Air Park

We also expect that all small landing strips located within the planned prohibited or restricted zones will be covered by the temporary airspace restrictions.

All airspace users wishing to operate in these zones will need to comply with the airspace restrictions in place.

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether steps will be taken to compensate private air fields, flight schools and leisure flight operators who are within the exclusion zone during the London 2012 Olympics. [51231]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have no plans to compensate aerodrome operators or airspace users who may be affected by the planned security restrictions for the London 2012 Games.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the behavioural impact analysis report by the Cycle to Work Alliance on the effects on the cycling industry of the financial incentives provided by the cycle to work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [51145]

Norman Baker: I welcomed the publication of the behavioural impact analysis report by the Cycle to Work Alliance and also provided a supportive foreword. There are no plans to make a further statement or conduct an assessment on the effects on the cycling industry of the financial incentives provided by the cycle to work scheme.

Cycling England

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what residual functions will remain following the abolition of Cycling England; which organisation will carry out each such function; what the estimated costs of each such function are; and what transfer of funds will be made to each organisation to carry out each such function. [46486]

Norman Baker: Cycling England will cease to exist after 31 March 2011 and promotion of cycling will fall to the Department for Transport and local authorities.

Funding for cycling will be subsumed into the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. £560 million is available over four years for sustainable transport solutions including cycling. Local authorities will also have ring fenced resources for public health, which could include promoting cycling.

A number of national cycling projects will continue to be funded through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, overseen by Department for Transport.

These are:

Bikeability Cycle Training has been allocated £11 million in 2011-12 and will continue to be supported for the duration of this Parliament. The delivery arrangements for this are currently being considered.

Links to Schools, Bike It and Bike Club have been allocated £12.7 million in 2011-12 via a grant to the Active Travel Consortium. After March 2012 local authorities will be expected to support such projects themselves.

Departmental Estate

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to reduce the size of his Department's estate; and if he will make a statement. [46219]

Norman Baker: I refer to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey) on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 150W.

In addition, the Department for Transport has exercised a lease break on approximately one third of its main London headquarters building which will cease to be occupied by the Department from the end of 2012. We estimate that this measure will save £5 million per year.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Renewable Fuels Agency. [48684]

Norman Baker: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I refer the right hon. Lady to my answer of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1144-5W. This provides our best current estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from the dissolution of the Renewable Fuels Agency and the transfer of its functions to the Department for Transport.

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Commission for Integrated Transport. [48688]

Norman Baker: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I refer the right hon. Lady to my answer of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 351W. This is our best current estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Commission for Integrated Transport.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48434]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport comprises seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department (the 'Department'). The figures provided in the following table are for all items recorded as lost by or stolen from DFT staff, from either on and off the various premises of the Department and includes both Department owned assets and staff personal property. The figures provided do not include losses or thefts where records are not available centrally or where such losses or thefts were not reported. While some of this information may exist in records held locally within the central Department and the agencies, it can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

The property recorded as lost and stolen since May 2010 is as follows:

	Lost	*Stolen*
Central DFT	10 BlackBerry	8 BlackBerry
	—	1 Laptop
Agencies and shared service centre	2 Laptops	8 Laptops

	Lost	*Stolen*
	4 BlackBerry	Watch
	Projector	iPhone
	Digital Radio	PC and screen
	Airwave radio	High Visibility Suit
	—	Bicycle
	—	250 litres of heating oil
	—	Gas boiler flue

It would not be appropriate to comment on specific cases, however, the Department takes firm action to investigate thefts and seeks to recover losses. Instances of theft are reported to the police whenever appropriate.

Information held on departmental laptops and BlackBerrys is encrypted to appropriate HMG standards. All such BlackBerrys reported as lost or stolen are remotely erased.

Driving Standards Agency

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Driving Standards Agency *(a)* received in income from and *(b)* spent on administration of the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence in the financial year 2009-10. [50537]

Mike Penning: In the 2009-10 financial year the agency received £3.1 million of income and incurred total costs of £3.74 million on the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence.

European Aviation Safety Agency

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1053, on the European Aviation Safety Agency, what his policy is on lowering flight time limitations as a result of the proposed European Aviation Safety Agency legislation. [51115]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to comments submitted by my Department and the Civil Aviation Authority to the European Aviation Safety Agency's consultation on flight time limitations which are published in Civil Aviation Information Notice Number IN-2011/18 at:

www.caa.co.uk

Exhaust Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the draft Local Authority Basic Carbon tool in evaluating the carbon impact of whole area interventions, including those delivered through the Sustainable Travel Town programme, prior to the introduction of the tool. [49834]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport undertook a full, independent evaluation of the Sustainable Travel Town programme in March 2010, including carbon impacts. The Department has not undertaken a retrospective evaluation of such interventions using the carbon tool, which only went live on 16 February 2011.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Pontypridd of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 835W, on the Great Western Railway: electrification, when he plans to place in the Library details of the business case work which assisted his Department in determining the further extension of electrification of the Great Western Main Line. [48086]

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the details of the business case work prepared in respect of the electrification of the Great Western main line between Cardiff and Swansea; and if he will make a statement. [48860]

Mrs Villiers: Details of the business case work, which assisted the Department for Transport in determining the case for further Great Western electrification, was placed in the Libraries of the House on 31 March.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which public libraries his Department has sent hard copies of the consultation documents on the proposals for High Speed Two. [50821]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 4 April 2011]*: Hard copies of all of the consultation documents were sent to the following libraries:

Amersham Library
Atherstone Library
Aylesbury Library
Banbury Library
Beaconsfield Library
Birmingham Central Library
Brackley Library
Buckingham Library
Coventry Central Library
Daventry Library
Ealing Central Library
Fulham Reference Library
Harrow Civic Centre Reference Library
High Wycombe Library
Highbury and Islington Central Library
Kensington Central Library
Lichfield Library
Oxford Central Library
Rickmansworth Library
Solihull Central Library
Swiss Cottage Central Library
Tamworth Library
Uxbridge Library
Warwick Library
Westminster Reference Library
Willesden Green Library Centre

Copies of the main consultation document, the summary and the consultation CD, were also sent to 139 councils along the proposed London to West Midlands route.

High Speed Two

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the role and responsibilities are of Mr Ian Jordan, Project Sponsor of HS2 Ltd; and what remuneration he receives. [49923]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 30 March 2011]*: Mr Jordan's role encompasses the following responsibilities:

developing the overall case for HS2 London-west midlands for the current consultation and co-ordinating HS2 Ltd's advice to Government;

leading the option selection process for route proposals from the west midlands to Leeds and Manchester and producing a report to the Secretary of State;

HS2's demand modelling and economic analysis; responsible for building the economic case for HS2 and developing the more detailed analysis necessary to support a hybrid Bill;

programme and project management for HS2.

Mr Jordan is a senior civil servant in pay band 1 (SCS1). Under the Government's Transparency Agenda, individual base pay is disclosed (in £5,000 bands) only for SCS pay band 2 and above.

High Speed Two: Rolling Stock

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the likely average seat occupancy rate of High Speed Two trains. [49934]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer my right hon. Friend to the 'Economic Case for HS2: The Y Network and London-West Midlands', available on the consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

London-Norwich Railway Line

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent from the public purse on rebranding *(a)* engines and *(b)* rolling stock used on rail services between Norwich and London in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2010-11. [49157]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold information related to rebranding of rolling stock on the Norwich to London line. A decision to rebrand is a commercial matter for a train operating company.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has had made of the likely level of carbon dioxide emissions over the lifetime of a hybrid car compared to that of a petrol or diesel car. [47847]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold data on lifetime, emissions of hybrid cars compared to petrol or diesel cars.

No detailed studies have been undertaken to compare production and end of life emissions and it not possible to fully compare in-use emissions due to insufficient data. However, we can say that the majority of life cycle emissions for all vehicles are associated with the usage phase. Information collected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for 2010 shows that the average emissions for newly registered hybrid cars was 106 gCO_2/km, petrol cars was 145 gCO_2/km, diesel cars was 144 gCO_2/km and .the average of petrol and diesel combined was 144.6 gCO_2/km.

This means that the average UK hybrid car is a 26% improvement on average of a diesel car, a 27% improvement on an average petrol car and 27% improvement on the average petrol and diesel cars combined.

Motor Vehicles: Finchley

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of applications for renewal of vehicle excise duty tax discs were made *(a)* online and *(b)* at post offices by (i) all residents and (ii) residents over the age of 65 years of Finchley and Golders Green constituency in the latest period in which figures are available. [51222]

Mike Penning: The information requested about the proportion of residents of Finchley and Golders Green renewing their vehicle excise duty using the Internet and the Post Office is not readily available and would incur disproportionate costs to gather. Information about residents over the age of 65 is not held.

Throughout Great Britain the proportion split for renewing vehicle excise duty tax discs during the financial year 2009-10 was online 41%; Post Office 54%; Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Local Offices 2% and electronically to fleet operators 3%.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he has taken to assist police forces and insurers to address motor vehicle insurance fraud; [49798]

(2) what steps he is taking to tackle fraud in the motor insurance industry. [49849]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has recently introduced Continuous Insurance Enforcement which is expected to have a significant effect in reducing the use of uninsured vehicles.

We are working with the motor insurance industry to provide industry participants with automated access to a driver's record so that they can check the driver's entitlement to drive, endorsements or driving convictions when applying for motor insurance cover. The intention is to prevent drivers providing false or misleading information which may compromise cover and invalidate the policy.

The police already take steps to tackle those who are not validly insured and other fraud. I will also consider with the Home Office a proposal for a dedicated police unit on insurance fraud, paid for by the insurance industry, as proposed in the recent Transport Select Committee's report on motor insurance.

Parking: Pedestrian Areas

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the outcome was of the review of pavement parking conducted in 1988. [46196]

Norman Baker: The review did not lead to any formal conclusions, but it did inform the development of legislation, including the Road Traffic Acts of 1988 and 1991.

I have recently written to all English traffic authorities in England (outside London) to remind them of the powers and tools they already have to tackle local pavement parking problems, and to issue them with the special authorisation necessary for new signs for area-wide bans.

Radioactive Materials

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which radioactive materials were carried on the ship Captain Yakovlev which departed from Hull on 25 February 2011 for St Petersburg; and which company owned the cargo. [50242]

Mike Penning: The regulatory regime for the transport of radioactive materials requires consignors to notify Department for Transport of only a very limited proportion of the many thousands of shipments of low level radioactive material which are safely undertaken each year. We have received no notification of this consignment.

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consideration his Department has given to removing responsibility for rail and signalling infrastructure from Network Rail in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* the South Western region, *(c)* the South Central region and *(d)* the South Eastern region; [51093]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to removing Anglia area rail track and signalling infrastructure from the responsibility of Network Rail in 2011. [51094]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money Study has considered a range of options relating to responsibility for the rail network. The study will present its findings shortly. Sir Roy's recommendations and responses to those recommendations will shape the Government's proposals for the reform of the industry, which we intend to set out later this year.

Railways: Electrification

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to further electrification of the UK's existing rail infrastructure. [49708]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 29 March 2011]*: As well as a package of electrification in the North West, which includes electrification between Manchester and Liverpool via Newton-le-Willows and electrification to Blackpool North, we recently announce plans to extend the existing programme of electrification of the Great Western Main Line to Bristol and Cardiff. We are currently working with the Welsh Assembly Government on a proposal to electrify the Valleys lines north of Cardiff.

The Government support a progressive electrification of the rail network in England and Wales as a way of reducing the cost of running the railways, increasing passenger comfort and reducing carbon. We continue to work with Network Rail to look at the case for further electrification in the next rail control period starting in 2014.

Railways: Infrastructure

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost-benefit analysis his Department has undertaken on proposals for restructuring of rail and signalling infrastructure in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* the South Western region, *(c)* the South Central region and *(d)* the South Eastern region. [49833]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has made no such assessment. The independent Office of Rail Regulation is responsible for assessing the performance of Network Rail in driving efficiencies on the rail network while delivering the Government's High Level Output Specification.

Railways: North West England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effects on rail fares of the development of the Northern Hub. [50827]

Mrs Villiers: No assessment has been made of possible impact on future rail fares arising from the development of the Northern Hub.

Railways: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that a direct rail service between Shropshire and London is included within the new West Coast franchise. [50041]

Mrs Villiers: The rail service for the next West Coast franchise is currently under consultation. This consultation will not be completed until 21 April 2011. The Department for Transport has received representations regarding previous Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone services as part of this consultation. The Invitation to Tender is expected to published in early May 2011 and this will detail the train services that bidders for the franchise will be expected to operate.

Railways: Wales

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case for electrification of the South Wales Valleys rail lines. [45224]

Mrs Villiers: Copies of the business case for electrification of the South Wales Valleys rail lines were placed in the Libraries of the House on 31 March 2011.

Rescue Services: VAT

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to implement the value added tax refund for Mountain Rescue. [49776]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* I have been advised by HM Treasury that there has been no announcement on extending zero rates of VAT to benefit mountain rescue teams. However, discussions are continuing on determining a suitable grant system for distributing the funds to support the purchase of mountain rescue equipment announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the 8 February. More details will be available in due course.

Road Safety

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans his Department has for road safety campaigns on television in 2011-12; [50656]

(2) what plans his Department has for road safety campaigns in schools in 2011-12; [50657]

(3) whether his Department plans to run road safety campaigns for children in conjunction with the private sector in 2011-12; [50658]

(4) whether his Department has a ring-fenced budget for road safety for children in 2011-12. [50659]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport is currently developing its communication plans for 2011-12 and future years. The spending review allocated £3.5 million for road safety communications in 2011-12.

Child road safety will remain a priority. Plans for child road safety have yet to be submitted and approved although we expect to include child road safety campaigns in partnership with the private sector. The plan will be subject to the controls on advertising and marketing spend governed by the Efficiency and Reform Group.

The THINK! education materials (covering early years, primary and secondary school children) will remain available for use within schools.

There are no current plans for television road safety campaigns in 2011-12.

Rolling Stock: Costs

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 786W, on rolling stock, what the source is of the base data on which the net present value calculation was made; and what the assumed *(a)* procurement and *(b)* maintenance costs are of the electric trains and locomotives. [49411]

Mrs Villiers: The data on which the calculation was made came from sources that included Network Rail, the rail Network Modelling Framework (NMF), data from previous rolling stock deals and the recent Intercity Express programme (IEP) proposal from Agility Trains. The capital rental of full length electric trains was assumed to cost around £260,000 per month, with the capital rental of each locomotive assumed to cost around £30,000 per month. The maintenance of eight-car electric trains was assumed to cost £3.56 per mile, with the maintenance of each locomotive assumed to cost £0.45 per mile.

The above costs are given at 2009-10 prices.

Sea Rescue

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the most recent tests for local knowledge administered to coastguards working at maritime rescue co-ordination centres. [45875]

Mike Penning: The current coastguard local knowledge tests are developed and administered separately by the management of each maritime rescue coordination centre (MRCC). The subject areas covered are consistent, but the tests themselves vary in format and style between locations. I have arranged for copies of the current tests to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Tamar Valley Railway Line

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the construction of communication masts along the Tamar Valley line is required to be carried out under an obligation required by any European directive; [48851]

(2) if he will review the adequacy of *(a)* consultation with local residents and *(b)* protection of areas of outstanding natural beauty of the permitted development rights arrangements under which Network Rail is constructing communication masts along the Tamar Valley line. [48915]

Mrs Villiers: There is a requirement under the interoperability directive 2008/57 for railway subsystems to comply with technical specifications for interoperability (TSIs). The current TSI for control-command and signalling applies to high speed or conventional lines on the trans-European rail system and requires the installation of a global system for mobile communication (GSM-R) based secure radio system for new or upgraded lines. The TSI does not require a GSM-R system for lines outside of the scope of the TSI.

Network Rail propose GSM-R is rolled out beyond the lines covered by the scope of the TSI and across their entire rail network on the grounds that this offers the most cost-effective and safe solution.

The location of individual GSM-R masts is an operational matter for Network Rail in which Ministers have no power to intervene. Network Rail's permitted development rights (PDRs) enable the company to carry out certain development on its operational land in connection with the movement of traffic by rail without having to make a specific planning application. These rights are set out in part 17 of schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order 1995 (the GPDO). The GPDO is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Network Rail advises that its PDRs apply in areas of outstanding natural beauty and we understand the company followed guidance from DCLG about informing local authorities and residents in advance of the development.

Railways: Cost-Benefit Ratios

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the 60-year cost-benefit ratio of *(a)* the Thameslink programme, *(b)* Crossrail, *(c)* High Speed One and *(d)* High Speed Two. [47309]

Mrs Villiers: The information is as follows:

(a) The benefit cost ratio for the current Thameslink investment is 2.2:1.

(b) The benefit cost ratio of Crossrail is 1.92:1.

(c) The Secretary of State has not made an estimate of the 60 year cost-benefit ratio for High Speed 1 using the current economic assessment methodology. Cost-benefit ratios were calculated during the life of the project using the methodology of the time. Information on these is available in National Audit Office reports dated 28 March 2001 and 21 July 2005. Both reports are available from the NAO.

(d) The Government estimate that the benefit cost ratio for the proposed Y-shaped HS2 network is 2.6:1.

Thameslink Railway Line: Standards

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of delay minutes on the Thameslink route were attributed to *(a)* Network Rail, *(b)* First Capital Connect and *(c)* delays to First Capital Connect services caused by other train-operating companies in each of the last 15 performance periods for which figures are available. [37752]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for such information:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* performance and *(b)* level of customer service under the franchise agreement provided by First Capital Connect on the Thameslink rail route. [50019]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* Department for Transport officials meet every four weeks to review compliance against the franchisee's contractual commitments, including the delivery of specific performance obligations. During the most recent four-weekly assessment period, First Capital Connect was compliant with all its franchise commitments.

Transport: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the change in the real-terms cost of a passenger journey by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus, *(c)* rail and *(d)* air since 2000. [50865]

Norman Baker: I have not estimated changes in the real cost of passenger journeys by car, bus or rail. Instead the Department for Transport (DfT) uses data from the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). This shows that between 2000 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 8%, bus and coach fares increased by 20% and rail fares increased by 15% in real terms.

The costs of travelling by air are not available from ONS data so are provided from DfT analysis. The average cost of a one-way domestic flight air fare, including taxes and charges, fell by 34% in real terms between 2000 and 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

Transport: Passengers

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of passengers travelled by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus, *(c)* rail and *(d)* air transport in each year since 2000. [50864]

Norman Baker: The National Travel Survey covers residents of Great Britain and produces estimates of the number of trips made per person per year, by mode of transport. The most recent estimates for 2009 and earlier years are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/nts/how-mode/nts0303.xls

The percentage of trips that each mode accounted for during 2009 are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/nts/how-mode/nts0301.xls

The National Travel Survey covers travel within Great Britain only and the number of air trips within the survey is small. Air travel is therefore included in the "other" category in these tables.

Waterloo Station

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate has been made of the book value of Waterloo International railway terminal. [49847]

Mrs Villiers: The former Eurostar facility at Waterloo is owned and managed by BRB (Residuary) Ltd (BRBR) on behalf of the Department for Transport. The latest valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2009 and is included in BRBR's 2009-10 annual report and accounts. These show that the book value of the facility at that date was £3.2 million. This valuation is split into four parts as follows;

Freehold station valued at £35.7 million

Leasehold concourse valued at £1.0 million

Leased coach park valued at £0.3 million

Leased arches beneath domestic station valued at negative £33.8 million

The commercial value of these assets is likely to exceed the book value.

West Coast Rail Franchise

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has allocated to the costs of tendering for the West Coast rail franchise. [50871]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport anticipates that the costs of tendering for the West Coast rail franchise will be in the order of £1,220,810.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Agriculture: Environment Protection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of agricultural businesses which will receive funding from his Department for the use of low-carbon technology and energy-efficient equipment in each of the next four financial years. [50811]

Gregory Barker: DECC is in the process of prioritising funding for innovation for the next four years to focus on those technologies and programmes where the need is greatest and that will have the greatest impact on meeting the Department's climate change and energy objectives. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate the number of agriculture businesses that will receive funding from DECC for the use of low-carbon technology and energy equipment over this period.

Anaerobic Digestion (AD), a relevant technology for many agricultural businesses, is eligible for the feed-in-tariff's (FIT) scheme which reward small-scale, low-carbon electricity generation. We are currently consulting on proposals to increase tariffs for AD installations with an installed capacity of up to 500kW.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51418]

Gregory Barker: As of 4 April 2011, DECC had 436 officials with mobile communication devices. This includes mobile phones, BlackBerry devices and 3G cards. The cost of these devices for the period covering 20 February 2010 to 19 February 2011 was £215,600.48.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50090]

(2) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010; [50191]

(3) how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50226]

Gregory Barker: Ministers regularly use London underground and public buses on Government business at their own expense. No central record is kept of such travel.

No DECC Ministers have allocated GCDA—Government Car and Despatch Agency—ministerial cars. Ministers may use the GCDA pool cars, and have occasionally used these to travel to their constituency, where a business requirement has justified this. Ministers also use taxis and private hire cars for official travel. The details of overseas travel are published quarterly, and can be found at:

www.decc.gov.uk

Since May 2010, DECC has spent £132,676 on GCDA ministerial cars, compared with £303,129 which DECC spent on GCDA ministerial cars during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

All travel is taken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51390]

Gregory Barker: The average monthly staff vacancy rate in DECC during 2010-11 (from April to February) was 6%. During the course of the year, the vacancy rate reduced from almost 10% in April 2010 to below 3% in February 2011. We expect the vacancy rate to stabilise at around 2% in 2011-12.

Energy

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to provide information to the public on *(a)* creating low-carbon energy, *(b)* matching supply and demand, *(c)* securing value for money for consumers and *(d)* other major energy challenges over the next decade. [51112]

Gregory Barker: Greater transparency is at the heart of our commitment to enable the public to hold political and public bodies to account and deliver better value for money in public spending. DECC aims to ensure that its data are as accessible to the public as possible.

The Department publishes information through a wide range of avenues including the DECC website and data.gov.uk. Data on energy production including renewables are published monthly on the DECC website, while each quarter fuller analysis of energy production and use is published in 'Energy Trends'. Annually full information is published in the 'Digest of UK Energy Statistics' as well as a more detailed look at energy use in 'Energy Consumption in the UK'. Other important data sets included data on GHG—greenhouse gas—emissions, detailed local level electricity and gas consumption data and work with the Energy Saving Trust to publish data on installation of insulation measures at local authority and parliamentary constituency level.

A number of recent publications also provide the public with relevant information:

The DECC Business Plan sets out actions against coalition priorities to 2015 and a number of impact and input indicators which can be used to assess progress.

The DECC website and the Energy Saving Trust provide consumers with extensive information on how they can generate low-carbon energy (through the domestic feed-in tariffs) and energy saving measures more generally.

DECC's Annual Energy Statement, consultation for electricity market reform (EMR) and 2050 Pathways Analysis all describe the major energy challenges over the next decade and beyond. The EMR consultation also includes projections for future demand and supply and how the balance could be maintained.

Affordability is a key concern for DECC. We support the independent regulation of electricity markets through Ofgem—their primary duty is to protect the interests of present and future consumers. The proposals set out in the EMR consultation document were assessed to gauge their likely impact on consumers and that has been published alongside the policy proposals.

National Grid also publishes data on its website describing in real time how supply and demand is matched:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Data/Realtime/

Energy Supply

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the ability of independent renewable electricity generators to secure a reasonable value for their output following removal of the requirement on suppliers to secure increasing proportions of the power they supply from renewable sources. [50620]

Charles Hendry: We published the EMR electricity market reform consultation in December 2010 seeking views on proposals to reform the electricity market to meet our decarbonisation, security of supply and affordability goals. This included a proposal for a feed-in tariff to support low carbon, including renewable generation.

We are committed to supporting existing investment in renewables, and therefore we also consulted on the best means to transition from the current renewables obligation to the new mechanism.

We will publish final proposals before the summer recess.

Energy: Billing

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects on consumers of provisions in the Energy Bill to increase the information provided on domestic energy bills. [51154]

Gregory Barker: The Energy Bill includes proposals to require energy suppliers to inform consumers through their bills about the cheapest available tariff to give customers greater control over their energy costs, (we are also seeking to implement this proposal through a voluntary agreement with energy suppliers).

We have published an impact assessment which concluded that, depending on the level of switching in relation to the cheaper tariff information, consumers may benefit in terms of cheaper energy bills. It also estimated that if a voluntary agreement cannot be reached and secondary legislation is required, total costs would be in the range of £0-£43 million with a best estimate of £22 million. This impact assessment is available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

(with details of the information on bills requirement from page 72).

If the Government need to use the powers to mandate action by the energy suppliers then a further impact assessment will be required.

Energy: Housing

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with local authorities on their role in *(a)* providing access to the Green Deal and *(b)* improving the energy efficiency of private rented homes. [50556]

Gregory Barker: On 9 March 2011, the Department agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Group to work together to tackle climate change. DECC is currently working with several local authorities to consider the opportunities and barriers to deliver the Green Deal.

Our discussions with local government, including the Local Government Association, include improving the energy efficiency of the private rented sector.

Energy: International Co-operation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether any *(a)* special advisers, *(b)* parliamentary assistants and *(c)* Ministers' spouses or partners took part in the green trade mission to the US; [51475]

(2) what the *(a)* names and *(b)* job titles are of the members of the green trade mission to the US; [51476]

(3) how the members of the green trade mission to the US from private sector companies were selected. [51480]

Gregory Barker: The following business representatives took part in the recent UK green trade mission to the US, which I led:

Emma Howard Boyd, Director, Jupiter Asset Management

Bill Rumble, Group Commercial Director, Mark Group

Dennis Hayter, Vice President for Business Development, Intelligent Energy

Rowan Douglas, Chief Executive Officer of Global Analytics at Willis Re (replaced by David Short in North and South Carolina)

Andy Wood, Chief Executive, Adnams

Ian Mays, Chief Executive Officer, Renewable Energy Systems.

No ministerial spouses or partners, special advisers, or parliamentary assistants were part of the delegation.

Businesses were invited to participate in this visit taking account of assessments by DECC, UKTI and the British embassy network in the United States of their compatibility with the objective of demonstrating the ability of companies to seize the opportunities presented by the global green economy; their interest in the commercial opportunities in the states being visited; and compatibility of schedules.

Shipping: Exhaust Emissions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has made on raising of international climate finance from the regulation of shipping emissions at the *(a)* International Maritime Organisation and *(b)* G20. [51233]

Gregory Barker: The Government are an active proponent internationally of measures to reduce shipping emissions. The primary aim of such measures would be to reduce emissions, but they could in addition generate revenues which could be used for a variety of purposes, potentially including international climate finance.

The Secretary of State has made no direct representations at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) or the G20 (Finance Ministers), as these are for the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In the G20, I understand the French presidency have held discussions on international climate finance among Finance Ministers, and Trevor Manuel, the South African National Planning Minister, has presented the findings of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Finance (AGF) with UK Government support.

The IMO secretary general and the Secretary of State spoke in November 2010, given the Secretary of State's role as a member of the AGF. We also understand the Norwegian Government, as co-chair of the AGF, are presenting the findings to the IMO shortly.

Feed-in Tariffs

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many certificates an investor or generator may hold for the purposes of feed-intariffs in respect of a site with a unique *(a)* property address and *(b)* meter point. [50625]

Gregory Barker: No certificates are issued under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. I therefore take the question to refer to meeting the criteria of the definition of a site for accreditation under the FITs scheme.

A site is defined in the FITs licence conditions as

> "the premises to which are attached one or more Accredited FITs installations or Eligible installations in close geographical proximity to each other, to be determined by: a). the relevant meter point administration number for the electricity supply, b). street address, c). OS grid reference; and any other factors which the Authority (Ofgem) at its discretion views as relevant."

It is the responsibility of Ofgem as administrators of the scheme to use its discretion in applying the definition of a site when accrediting an installation for the feed-in tariffs (FITs).

Natural Gas: Exploration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consult the Environment Agency on the potential implications of seismic tremors for onshore drilling for unconventional gases. [51621]

Charles Hendry: We have regular contact with both the Health and Safety Executive and the environment agencies on unconventional gas. The implications of seismic tremors for onshore drilling for unconventional gas will form part of this dialogue.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether defence nuclear activities will be included within the scope of the review into the safety of UK nuclear plants by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate. [51460]

Charles Hendry: Following the nuclear incident at Fukushima in Japan, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change asked Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, to report on the lessons to be learnt for the UK from the incident, with an interim report requested from Dr Weightman in May 2011 and a final report in September 2011. Dr Weightman has complete independence to determine the scope of his reports and the arrangements for conducting his inquiries for them. However, the Secretary of State's responsibilities only relate to civil nuclear facilities. I understand that Dr Weightman's focus for his interim report will be on any early lessons for existing and prospective UK nuclear power stations. His final report may have lessons that are relevant for nuclear safety at defence-related sites.

Office for Renewable Energy Deployment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 107-8W, on departmental manpower, which specific technologies the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment covers. [50748]

Gregory Barker: Renewable energy is defined by the Renewable Energy Directive 2009 as:

> "energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar, aerothermal, geothermal, hydrothermal and ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases".

There are at least 22 technologies that fall within this definition across the electricity, heat and transport sectors.

The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment's (ORED) purpose is to increase greatly the deployment of these technologies in the UK as cost-effectively and sustainably as possible. ORED does this through a framework of financial incentives that provide long-term, comprehensive and targeted support across the range of renewable technologies; and by taking steps to address non-financial barriers that hinder renewables deployment.

ORED works with others to meet its objectives, both in DECC and across Whitehall—particularly DECC's teams that deal with heat and microgeneration technologies and the Green Deal; with the Department for Transport on renewable transport technologies; and DECC's Science and Innovation Group on renewable technologies which are still at relatively early stages of development and demonstration but which are expected to be important contributors for the pathway to 2050.

Oil

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for future support to the UK oil refining industry. [50426]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise the important role that the UK's refining sector plays in the economic life of the country. The Government seek to ensure that the right conditions exist to attract and retain investment in the UK's refining sector. We work closely with the downstream oil industry and its representatives to understand the impact of policy on the sector and to ensure this understanding is shared across a range of Government Departments.

Renewable Energy

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effects of removing the prohibition on the sale by local authorities of electricity generated from renewable energy. [51156]

Gregory Barker: The change has been welcomed by a number of local authorities seeking to take forward renewable energy projects. DECC is working proactively with local authorities and the Local Government Group (LG Group) to enable local authorities to benefit from this new opportunity supported by the renewables incentives framework. For example, a recent DECC-LG Group Memorandum of Understanding[1] acknowledges the pivotal role that local councils have in tackling climate change. We are therefore committed to working with local authorities to reduce emissions on their own estate and operations, in their areas (within their control and influence) and through participating in national carbon reduction initiatives such as the Green Deal, roll-out of renewables, and smart meters.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/local/local.aspx

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the written ministerial statement of 18 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 33WS, on feed-in-tariffs (review), what discussions he has had with representatives of the anaerobic digestion sector prior to the publication of his proposed tariff changes. [48817]

Gregory Barker: Before the publication of the fast-track consultation on the feed-in tariffs (FITs), discussions were held with the National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC), the Renewable Energy Association (REA), the Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA) the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA). Matters discussed included: (i) whether the current tariff for farm-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) delivers the expected 8% return on capital and if not, why not; (ii) the capital, operating, fuel and other costs of farm-scale (up to 500 kW) AD plants; and (iii) financial and non-financial barriers to the further deployment of farm-scale AD and how these might be addressed.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment his Department has made of Ofgem's ability to make feed-in tariff payments; [50975]

(2) what key performance indicators his Department uses to assess Ofgem's ability to make feed-in tariff payments. [50976]

Gregory Barker: Feed-in tariffs (FITs) payments are not made by Ofgem. The obligation is on electricity suppliers to make the FITs payments.

Solar Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1074W, on the solar photovoltaic sector: Brighton, what size of market his Department considers to be relatively small; and if he will make a statement. [50749]

Gregory Barker: As of 1 April 2011, data from the "FITs Installation Statistical Report" produced by Ofgem:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Default.aspx

show 28,617 solar photovoltaic (PV) installations with a total generation capacity of 77.862 MW for Great Britain. Brighton and Hove contributes less than 1% with 81 solar PV installations with total generation capacity of 0.164 MW.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the banking industry future funding for solar photovoltaic developers affected by the outcome of the fast-track review of the feed-in tariff scheme. [51117]

Gregory Barker: My officials are in regular contact with representatives from the banking sector and solar photovoltaic (PV) developers.

Solar Power: Cornwall

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effect of the fast-track review of the feed-in tariff scheme on farmers in Cornwall who have signed contracts with solar photovoltaic developers. [51116]

Gregory Barker: DECC officials are in regular contact with organisations representing the views of farmers in Cornwall, and will take into account all evidence received through the current public consultation.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many megawatts of solar photovoltaic generating capacity have been installed in Northumberland since the launch of the feed-in tariff scheme. [51352]

Gregory Barker: As of 31 December 2010, 173.1 kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) had been installed in Northumberland since 1 April 2010, the launch date of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. An additional 28.7 kW of solar PV capacity was installed between 15 July 2009 (when the FITs scheme was announced) and 1 April 2010.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when his Department first announced that air passenger duty would be increased by the rate of inflation each year; [50640]

(2) how much income from *(a)* air passenger duty and *(b)* the inclusion of aviation in the Emissions Trading Scheme he expects to accrue to the Exchequer in each year to 2015-16; [50641]

(3) if he will publish the advice he received on the legality of a per-plane duty. [50642]

Justine Greening: The June 2010 Budget policy costings document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

made clear on page 51 that air passenger duty (APD), along with many other duties, was assumed to increase with RPI.

The Office for Budget Responsibility now publishes revenue forecasts independently. The OBR's revenue forecasts for all APD and ETS receipts were set out on page 92 of the Budget 2011 document.

The Government do not routinely publish legal advice to safeguard openness in communications between Ministers and officials, ensuring access to full and frank advice.

Banks: Incentives

Mr Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of EU proposals for a financial transaction tax. [50487]

Mr Hoban: The European Commission issued a communication in October 2010 on taxation of the financial sector. This concluded that financial transactions taxes were best suited to raising revenue at a global level. Further detail was set out in Explanatory Memorandum 15282/10: Taxation of the Financial Sector.

The Government believe that financial transaction tax could not be viable unless implemented globally. There are many issues that need to be further explored around whether the financial transaction tax model offers a stable and efficient mechanism to raise revenue.

Business: National Insurance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely annual dead-weight cost to the public purse of the exemption from national insurance for new businesses setting up outside the south-east. [49727]

Mr Gauke: The regional national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday scheme is designed to support new businesses in their first year and reduce the cost of hiring staff for new businesses.

The Budget costing is an estimate of the NICs forgone from the number of qualifying new businesses we should normally see setting up. This did not account for any additional start-up activity or any wider macro-economic benefits from the policy.

The Government do not consider the support of these businesses, dead-weight costs since they provide a benefit to new businesses, increasing incentives to take on employees and improving the likelihood of business survival in the potentially vulnerable early stages.

Further information on the assumptions and methodologies underlying the costing are available at:

(page 21)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Child Benefit

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the dead-weight cost to the public purse of operating the child benefit system in the latest period for which figures are available. [49726]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs publishes detailed information about the costs associated with the administration of child benefit in its annual accounts. The most recently published information can be found in the 2009-10 accounts, trust statement and the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General published together at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

Child Tax Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of households in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Great Britain in which the child-care element of working tax credit payable will reduce in each of the next four financial years; and if he will estimate the average annual change in income attributable to such a reduction in each case; [50134]

(2) if he will estimate the likely annual loss of income to affected households attributable to the reduction in the child-care element of working tax credit in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Great Britain for individuals earning (i) up to £16,000, (ii) between £16,000 and £24,000, (iii) between £24,000 and £30,000, (iv) between £30,000 and £40,000, (v) between £40,000 and £50,000 and (vi) £50,000 and above in each of the next four financial years. [50138]

Mr Gauke: The reduction of child care support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review. However, to ensure support is better targeted at low-income families with children, some of the savings from measures announced at the spending review have been recycled into significant above-indexation increases to the child tax credit in 2011-12 and 2012-13. Treasury analysis shows that modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 have a small reduction in child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13; however given the uncertainty around these types of estimates, this change may not be statistically significant.

There are interactions between the measures so estimating the impact of just one measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on households.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

This distributional analysis is not available at the geographical breakdowns requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Corporation Tax

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of businesses trading in the UK and subject to corporation tax who will pay the tax in each of the next four financial years. [50033]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not forecast the proportion of UK businesses that will pay tax in the next four financial years. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) publish an onshore CT forecast to which a link is provided at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook-march.html

This forecast includes the aggregate effect of tax deductions which may result in some businesses having no taxable profits.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50089]

(2) how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on government business; [50170]

(3) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010; [50192]

(4) how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50214]

Justine Greening: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All travel undertaken by Treasury Ministers is carried out in line with the "Ministerial Code", in all cases by the most efficient and cost-effective means possible.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the first compensation payments to be made to Equitable Life policyholders. [51334]

Mr Hoban: The Government's ambition is to start making payments in the middle of this year.

Financial Institutions

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to sell the Government's stake in *(a)* Northern Rock, *(b)* Bradford & Bingley, *(c)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(d)* Lloyds TSB Bank. [51320]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in Bradford & Bingley plc; Northern Rock Asset Management plc; Northern Rock plc; Lloyds Banking Group; and the Royal Bank of Scotland on an arm's length and commercial basis.

In October 2010 UKFI integrated Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc and Bradford & Bingley plc under a single holding company UK Asset Resolutions (UKAR) which is committed to an orderly wind down of both banks' closed mortgage books.

In relation to Northern Rock plc; Lloyds Banking Group; and the Royal Bank of Scotland UKFI's remit is to devise and execute a strategy for disposing of the Government's investments in an orderly and active way, in line with its overarching objective to create and protect value for the taxpayer as shareholder.

Because any decision needs to be taken in the context of changing economic and market conditions, UKFI do not think that it is possible or desirable to state hard goals such as time that would drive the sale of the Government's shareholdings. But circumstances under which UKFI are likely to be able to sell shares are likely to be those in which the economy—and investor confidence—is recovering and in which bank share prices are firm.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate UK Financial Investments Ltd has made of the monetary value of each of the financial institutions in which it has a stake. [51324]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in Bradford and Bingley plc; Northern Rock Asset Management plc; Northern Rock plc; Lloyds Banking Group; and the Royal Bank of Scotland on an arm's-length and commercial basis.

UKFI set out a summary of investee banks' performance and key financials in their annual report.

Financial Institutions: Public Sector Debt

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on using proceeds from any future sale of the stake UK Financial Investments Ltd holds in UK financial institutions for payment of the national debt. [51488]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments' (UKFI) objective is to dispose of the Government's investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer.

Because any decision needs to be taken in the context of changing economic and market conditions, UKFI does not think it is possible to or desirable to state hard goals such as price or time that would determine when the Government's interests will be sold.

Financial Services

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 3.5 of Project Merlin-Banks' Statement, whether a banking institution may be released from its obligations under the agreement if it is deemed necessary by its board. [50123]

Mr Hoban: As a result of the Government's discussions, the four largest UK banks have committed that the total remuneration paid in 2010 will be lower than it was in 2009 and lower than it would have been otherwise. The Remuneration Committee chair of each bank will write to the FSA to confirm that this commitment has been met.

Financial Services: EU Law

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the capital requirement rules within the Basel III accord in respect of financial institutions based in the UK. [51070]

Mr Hoban: The Basel III agreement will strengthen the safety of the financial sector by significantly increasing the amount capital banks are required to hold against their risk weighted assets and by introducing a leverage ratio to prevent a dangerous build up of leverage emerging in the financial system. The Basel package represents a credible and crucial set of reforms that will strengthen the resilience of the banking system to the long-run benefit of the economy.

Moreover, in order to protect the economic recovery the Basel committee has agreed an extended transition period; with most elements of the package phased in gradually from 2013 to 2019.

The UK supports a full and faithful implementation of the Basel III agreement in the EU through the Capital Requirements Directive.

Fly-tipping

Mr Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he expects to accrue to the Exchequer from landfill tax receipts arising from disposal in landfill of waste previously fly-tipped on *(a)* private and *(b)* public land in the financial year 2010-11. [50381]

Justine Greening: The data collected on fly-tipping of waste does not include the level of detail necessary to undertake this calculation.

Gift Aid

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will consider the merits of extending the criteria for gift aid eligibility to include junior subscriptions to community amateur sports clubs; [50596]

(2) what representations he has received on extending the eligibility criteria for gift aid to include junior subscriptions to community amateur sports clubs. [50597]

Justine Greening: Last year the Gift Aid Forum, established by HM Treasury recommended a number of ways to improve the Gift Aid system but made no proposals in respect of junior membership subscriptions to community amateur sports clubs. This Government have not received any representations on extending Gift Aid to junior subscriptions.

Budget 2011 announced a number of improvements to Gift Aid which will benefit community amateur sports clubs as well as charities. The new Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme will allow clubs and charities to claim Gift Aid-style payments on up to £5,000 of small donations without needing to obtain a Gift Aid declaration from donors. Together with the introduction of online Gift Aid claims, this means that from 2013 the income of many community amateur sports clubs will increase at the same time as their administrative burdens are reduced.

We continue to keep all policy issues under review.

ISA: Children

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the content of *(a)* the website taxfreejuniorisa.co.uk and *(b)* commercial websites which present information as if it were the policy of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [49818]

Mr Hoban: The Government have been made aware of the existence of www.taxfreejuniorisa.co.uk, but has not received any representations on its content. The website does not purport to be a Government website.

The Treasury has no record of receiving any recent representations on other commercial websites purporting to present information as if it were the policy of the Department.

Northern Rock

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future mutual status of Northern Rock. [51487]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI) manages the Government's investments in financial institutions on an arm's length and commercial basis. The development and execution of strategies for disposing of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock is part of UKFI's remit.

UKFI are looking at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and are exploring options based on maximising value for the taxpayer, maintaining financial stability and paying due regard to promoting competition. All exit strategies, including mutualisation, for Northern Rock plc will be considered with the final decision on the sale of Northern Rock made by the Chancellor.

Oil and Gas Industry

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings on what dates he had with representatives of the oil and gas industry in the six months prior to 23 March 2011; and who attended each such meeting; [50607]

(2) what discussions, on what dates, he had with representatives of the oil and gas industry on the supplementary charge on the industry prior to making his Budget Statement on 23 March 2011; who attended each such meeting; and at which of these meetings the effects of the price of oil falling below $75 a barrel was discussed. [50609]

Justine Greening: A list of Treasury Ministers' meetings with outside interest groups is published quarterly on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ministerial_meetings.htm

Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on future trends in production and investment in the oil and gas industry of the supplementary charge on the industry announced in his Budget Statement. [50608]

Justine Greening: As set out in Budget documentation, the Government do not expect a significant impact on investment or production in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure.

Recognising the importance of continued investment in the North sea, the Government will consider, with the industry, the case for introducing a new category of field that would qualify for field allowance should there be cases where the tax change has made previously new fields un-commercial.

Oil: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he has made for the reduction in the supplementary charge on the oil and gas industry should the oil price fall below the level of $75 per barrel specified in his Budget Statement. [50606]

Justine Greening: If the oil price falls below the trigger on a sustained basis, the Government will reduce the supplementary charge back towards 20% on a staged and affordable basis while prices remain low. The Government believe that a trigger price of $75 per barrel would be appropriate, but will set a final level and mechanism after seeking the views of oil and gas companies and motoring groups.

Public Finance

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reductions in public expenditure required to reduce the budget deficit by half over four years. [48019]

Justine Greening: The Office of Budget Responsibility's June 2010 pre-Budget forecast set out an independent forecast for public spending and the deficit consistent with the previous Government's plans. This forecast is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/pre_budget_forecast_140610.pdf

Solvency II Process

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many officials *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* of the Financial Services Authority are engaged in policy development in respect of the Solvency II proposals; [51202]

(2) what recent assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of the size of *(a)* the UK annuity market and *(b)* similar product markets in each other EU member state; [51203]

(3) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the Solvency II approach to capital for insurers; [51204]

(4) what assessment he has made of the potential effect on consumer prices of implementation of the capital requirements under consideration in the Solvency II process; [51205]

(5) whether the decisions on Solvency II proposals in the Council of Ministers will be subject to *(a)* unanimous consent of member states, *(b)* agreement via qualified majority voting or *(c)* another form of decision-making; and if he will make a statement. [51327]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury and its associated public bodies have a number of staff involved in working across government and with other partners on Solvency II as part of their wider roles.

The Treasury is working closely with the FSA and with UK industry on assessing the scale of, and implications for, the annuities market. The Association of British Insurers estimate, that in 2009 (the last date available) the total premium written for annuity was £10.8 billion, and that the total amount of annuity liability is around £130 billion. Finance Ministries across Europe take a similar approach with respect to the products offered by their industries. Government do not engage in the public benchmarking of the UK annuity market against other European markets.

The Chancellor and other Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with European counterparts on a range of issues, including the new approach to capital for insurers under Solvency II, and the treatment of long-term products such as annuities.

The potential effect on consumer prices of implementation of the Solvency II capital requirements cannot be sensibly estimated yet as the rules are still not finalised. The Government continue to work closely with the Financial Services Authority and with industry to ensure a full understanding of the potential effect on consumer prices.

The Solvency II directive has already been adopted by the Council of Ministers. The directive is being amended through Omnibus II, to bring it into line with the decision-making process agreed in the Lisbon treaty. Omnibus II will be subject to agreement via the qualified majority decision process, as well as agreement with the European Parliament. When Omnibus II comes into force, the Delegated Acts—which will set out the technical details and rules of Solvency II—will then be subject to the qualified majority decision process in the Council of Ministers.

Statoil

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department received from Statoil or its representatives or agents prior to the 2011 Budget. [51477]

Justine Greening: No budget representations were received from Statoil or their agents/representatives prior to the 2011 Budget.

Tax Evasion

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage Crown Dependencies to share more information in respect of potential tax evasion; and what effects he expects such steps to have on the amount of unpaid tax which is recovered. [50814]

Mr Hoban: The Crown Dependencies exchange information on request under Tax Information Exchange Agreements and similar arrangements. In addition the Isle of Man and Guernsey will have moved to automatic exchange of information under the EU Savings Directive framework by 1 July 2011. This will help HM Revenue and Customs to ensure the correct tax is paid by UK tax residents with savings income arising in those jurisdictions. We encourage Jersey to move to automatic exchange of information on savings income as soon as possible.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Belfast East of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 566W, on animal welfare, by what date he expects to be able to determine his policy on the implementation of the 7th amendment to Council Directive 76/768/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1223/200 on the testing of cosmetics on animals in 2013. [50684]

Mr Davey: This will depend entirely on the date of publication of the European Commission impact assessment on the effects of the ban.

Apprentices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new apprenticeship places will be available as a result of announcements in the 2011 Budget in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [50581]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* In the Budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the adult apprenticeships programme that we published in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth"[1] in November 2010.

The apprenticeships programme is demand led, which means that we do not plan places or set targets. In "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", we provided illustrative learner forecasts to show the capacity for training that Government investment can support: 437,000 in 2011/12 AY and 497,000 in 2012/13 AY. These will be updated to include the additional places announced in the Budget. We will publish a revised forecast for academic year 2011/12 and a forecast for 2012/13 later this year.

[1] Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts his Department plans to fund in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [50583]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* In the Budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the adult apprenticeships programme that we published in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth"[1] in November 2010. The Department for Education's plans for the apprenticeship programme for those aged 16-18 years are outlined in the 16-19 Funding Statement[2] published by the Young People's Learning Agency in December 2010.

The apprenticeships programme is demand led, which means that we do not plan places or set targets. In "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", we provided illustrative learner forecasts to show the capacity for training that Government investment can support: 437,000 in 2011/12 AY and 497,00 in 2012/13 AY. These will be updated to include the additional places announced in the Budget. We will publish a revised forecast for academic year 2011/12 and a forecast for 2012/13 later this year.

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http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

[2] 16-18 Funding Statement published by the YPLA

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/16-19_Funding_Statement.pdf

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the *(a)* allocation and *(b)* funding of the additional apprenticeships announced in the 2011 Budget in each region. [51232]

Mr Hayes: In the Budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the adult apprenticeships programme that we published in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth'[1] in November 2010.

The apprenticeship places announced in the Budget are in addition to the minimum expectation of apprenticeships delivery set out in the Skills Funding Agency's final funding allocations issued to providers on 31 March 2011. I have asked the Skills Funding Agency to propose how the additional funding can best be allocated to colleges and training providers to support delivery of these additional apprenticeships. Take-up by region follows employer demand. For this reason, we are not able to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of apprenticeship places or funding as these would be either too broad to be of use or would be potentially misleading.

[1] Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS
http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

Apprentices: Mechanics

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with private sector training colleges on provision of car mechanic apprenticeships in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* nationally. [51165]

Mr Hayes: I meet with the Association of Learning Providers on a quarterly basis, and did so most recently in January this year. I also hold discussions on a wide variety of subjects related to apprenticeships with individual colleges and training providers in arranged visits and meetings. However, I do not recall any discussions specific to private sector training providers and provision of car mechanic apprenticeships either in the west midlands or nationally.

Apprentices: Funding

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for how many apprenticeship places he plans to allocate funding in 2012-13; what recent discussions he has had on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [50282]

Mr Hayes: In the budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the Adult Apprenticeships programme that we published in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth"[1] in November 2010. The Department for Education's plans for the Apprenticeship programme for those aged 16 to 18 years are outlined in the 16-19 Funding Statement published by the Young People's Learning Agency in December 2010[2].

From the 2011/12 academic year (AY) colleges and training organisations will have a single adult skills budget, with earmarked delivery for adult apprenticeships so that they can use the increased freedoms and flexibilities that we have given them to respond to and be accountable to the needs of learner, employers and communities. This means that while we do not plan apprenticeship places or set targets, we have provided illustrative learner forecasts to show the capacity for adult training that Government investment can support.

Using the funds committed in the spending review alone, as set out with illustrative forecasts in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", we anticipate that Government funding will support 437,068 adult apprenticeships in the 2011/12 AY. For those aged 16 to 18 years old, we estimate we will fund 230,000 in the 2011/12 AY. We will publish a revised forecast for academic year 2011/12 and a forecast for 2012/13 later this year.

[1] *Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS*
http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

[2] *16-19 Funding Statement published by the YPLA*
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/16-19_Funding_Statement.pdf

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department plans to contribute to funding the apprenticeship places announced in the 2011 Budget; and from which of his Department's budgets such funding will be drawn. [51484]

Mr Hayes: In the Budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the adult apprenticeships programme that we published in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth'[1] in November 2010. The funding is not drawn from elsewhere within the Department's budgets; it is in addition to BIS' allocation announced in the spending review in the autumn.

[1] Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS
http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

Apprentices: North West England

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there were for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) the north west, (ii) Merseyside, (iii) Wirral and (iv) Wirral South constituency in (A) 2007-08, (B) 2008-09 and (C) 2009-10. [51236]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by gender for the north west region, Wirral local education authority and Wirral South parliamentary constituency for 2007/08 to 2009/10. We only hold information at region, local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels of geography, therefore data for Merseyside are not presented.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by gender in the north west region, Wirral local authority and Wirral South constituency, 2007/08 to 2009/10

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Female			
North West	17,240	18,810	24,790
Wirral	1,000	940	1,230
Wirral South	190	180	190
Male			
North West	18,240	17,720	22,490
Wirral	950	870	990
Wirral South	180	160	160
Total			
North West	35,480	36,530	47,280
Wirral	1,950	1,810	2,210
Wirral South	370	330	350

Notes:
1. All Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Department for Education are responsible for the promotion of equality of access to apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS), as the body responsible for promoting apprenticeships to employers and to potential apprentices, manages its systems to ensure equal access to information about the programme and to apprenticeship vacancies. A priority for NAS is to address stereotyping and under-representation across apprenticeships including gender, race and disability.

Apprentices: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people in Poole constituency *(a)* started and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [50499]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts and framework achievements in Poole parliamentary constituency from 2008-09 to 2009-10.

Apprenticeship framework starts and achievements, 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Poole parliamentary constituency	
	Starts	*Achievements*
2008-09	370	230
2009-10	480	280

Notes:
1. Figures for parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he has allocated for level 2 apprenticeships in Wolverhampton North East constituency in 2011-12. [49757]

Mr Hayes: Apprenticeships are a demand-led programme for young people and adults. Government fund apprenticeship training, in full for 16 to 19-year-olds and in part for adults, but relies on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities, in the context of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system. Therefore, Government do not plan apprenticeship places but provide funding and forecast the number of places that may be afforded as a result.

Budget 2011 announced a package of measures for apprenticeships worth £180 million. Taken together with the funding announced at the spending review, this means the Government will fund at least 250,000 more adult apprentices over the next four years compared with the previous Government's plans.

Bankruptcy

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of raising the bankruptcy level under section 267(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 to prevent bankruptcy petitions being made on very low level debts. [51089]

Mr Prisk: My officials in the Insolvency Service have analysed the likely effect of an increase to the bankruptcy level and undertook some targeted consultation with interested parties last year. About 80% of bankruptcies are as a result of the bankrupt's own petition where no limit applies. If the limit was increased to £1,750 (which would have been approximately in line with inflationary increases since the limit was last set), there would be expected to be about 3% fewer bankruptcy orders made on a creditor's petition. Views were invited on the whole personal insolvency regime in our consultation "Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt". Officials are carefully analysing the responses and will be reporting to me in due course.

Business: Maidstone

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises located in Maidstone and the Weald constituency on their access to credit. [51133]

Mr Prisk: Both the Secretary of State and I meet regularly with national business representative bodies—such as the British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Federation of Private Businesses, the Institute of Directors, and the Confederation of British Industry. At these meetings, a range of matters are discussed, which include access to finance for small businesses.

In addition, the Small Business Economic Forum, chaired by me, meets quarterly. This forum includes representatives from a number of small business representative bodies. The most recent meeting was held on 4 April, and the agenda included items on the progress being made by the British Bankers Association in implementing their Business Finance Taskforce proposals, and exporting.

These representations have a national focus, rather than focusing on the Maidstone and the Weald specifically. However, BIS data and other research indicate that access to finance is an issue that affects small businesses all across the UK to a broadly equal extent.

Climate Change

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has asked the National Physical Laboratory to take steps to support *(a)* the assessment of low carbon technology, *(b)* carbon trading and *(c)* the validation of climate change measurement. [51265]

Mr Willetts: As part of the National Measurement System Programmes, funded through the National Measurement Office (an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)), the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is carrying out work related to both the assessment of low carbon technology and the validation of climate change measurement. Some of this work is also in receipt of co-funding from the European Metrology Research Programme. BIS has not to date requested NPL to undertake work to support carbon trading.

Consumers: Debts

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of introducing Simplified Individual Voluntary Arrangements for simple consumer debt cases. [51088]

Mr Davey: Our recent call for evidence, "Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt", sought views on the personal insolvency framework. Officials are carefully analysing the responses and will be reporting to me in due course. I will consider whether changes need to be made to consumer insolvency procedures in the light of the responses received.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies, interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42221]

Mr Davey: This Department does not hold information centrally on the number of interpreters employed or subcontracted for each non-English language. This also applies to this Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

This Department has spent the following amounts on interpreters/translation services.

	£
2009-10	195,000
2010-11	[1]260,000

[1] Approximately.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department were in the Civil Service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44348]

Mr Davey: As at 31 March 2011, the Department has 30 people in its Career Centre of which 18 people have been there for more than six months.

Easter

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring into force the provision of the Easter Act 1928 fixing the date of Easter. [51197]

Mr Davey: There are no current plans to implement the Easter Act 1928. This Act remains on the statute book, however, the Act requires that before a draft order is laid before Parliament

> "regard shall be had to any opinion officially expressed by any Church or other Christian Body".

At this time, the Churches have not all expressed a desire or willingness to move to a fixed Easter.

Employment Agencies: Regulation

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to ensure that individuals who are proposed for vacancies by employment agencies or businesses are made aware of their rights to refuse such vacancies under the provisions of regulations 18 and 19 of the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003. [49154]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovations and Skills (BIS) ensures agency workers are aware of their rights under the provisions of the conduct regulations by publishing advice on the Direct.gov and Business Link websites, by publicising the pay and work rights helpline number (0800 917 2368) and by producing leaflets for workers which are handed out at job fares and universities.

BIS are currently working with the TUC and have produced an awareness raising video, which will be hosted on the TUC website and distributed to union representatives as part of a TUC training package.

Employment: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged 16 to 24 who are seeking (i) work and (ii) training in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [51166]

Mr Hayes: My right hon. Friend has held no discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the numbers of 16 to 24 year olds seeking work or training in the West Midlands. However, we recognise that this is an important issue both in the West Midlands and nationally.

Adults aged 19 and over are currently entitled to fee remission to support them to attain basic literacy and numeracy and the equivalent of five good GCSEs (Level 2); adults aged 19 up to 25 are currently entitled to fee remission to support them to attain the equivalent of 2 A-Levels (Level 3).

From 2011/12 the L2 entitlement will also include support for those who need help to make the step up from basic skills.

We are also helping young people improve their skills and get into work through pre-employment training and in the Budget, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced funding for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the lifetime of this Parliament.

English for Speakers of Other Languages: Finance

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what work his Department has undertaken on the equality impact assessment on the changes to the funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages announced in November 2010. [50710]

Mr Hayes: This Department published an Equality Impact Assessment published alongside "Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) which found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes to skills funding may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by this Department.

EU External Trade: India

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what objectives his Department has set for the outcome of negotiations on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement. [51037]

Mr Davey: The UK wants to agree an ambitious EU-India Free Trade Agreement which achieves maximum liberalisation across all sectors, including meaningful liberalisation in the services sector, and ensures that intellectual property (data exclusivity) provisions do not impact negatively on access to medicines for the poorest.

Executives: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make a comparative assessment on the relative performance of private sector companies which have *(a)* women and *(b)* no women on their board; and if he will make a statement. [51128]

Mr Davey: We welcome the noble Lord Davies' review into women on boards and encourage companies to implement his business-led strategy. A growing body of evidence now exists to show that well balanced boards are better boards, benefiting from fresh perspectives, talent, new ideas and broader experience which lead to better decision making. In addition, diverse organisations reflect their customers better, understand them better and offer better products and services as a result.

We remain committed to seeing more women reaching the boardrooms of UK plc and are working with stakeholders, including leading business representative organisations, and academia to monitor progress.

Exports

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to *(a)* increase British exports and *(b)* reduce the UK's trade in goods deficit. [50539]

Mr Prisk: UK trade has increased by 55% in real terms between 1998 and 2008. However the UK's relative share of world trade has declined over the same period from 5.7% in 1998 to 3.9% in 2008.

Our recent Trade and Investment White Paper, published in February 2011, set out our strategy to improve the UK's trade performance. The strategy has already begun to be implemented and work will continue over the coming months and years.

The White Paper announced that UK Trade and Investment's new strategy will focus on encouraging more innovative and high growth of small and medium businesses (SMEs) to export and focus on high growth and emerging markets. To support SMEs in particular, the White Paper also announced an expanded and better co-ordinated package of trade finance products on a pilot scheme basis which will be launched by April 2011.

We will continue to boost open trade, which will enable UK businesses to export more easily, through the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round, completion of bilateral trade agreements and strengthening of the Single Market Act.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment chairs the Economic Affairs Cabinet Sub-Committee on Trade and Investment. This Committee will drive the implementation of the strategy, using its regular meetings to monitor progress and shape the emerging policies.

Exports: Government Assistance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much financial support UKTI provided to *(a)* agricultural companies, *(b)* manufacturing, *(c)* universities and educational institutions, *(d)* financial services companies and *(e)* professional services companies in each region in 2011-12; and how much such support he expects to be provided in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14. [49836]

Mr Prisk: All UK businesses, irrespective of sector or region, can access UKTI services. UKTI, therefore, does not plan or record expenditure at sector or regional level.

To provide the information at sectoral or regional level would require gathering and collating the information and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further Education: Bureaucracy

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to reduce administrative burdens for further education colleges. [51142]

Mr Hayes: We are committed to reducing burdens and bureaucracy on colleges, so that they can better meet the needs of their communities. This is set out in detail in our strategy documents "Skills for Sustainable Growth" and "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth".

We have removed centrally imposed targets, which enables colleges to determine the learner offer that best meets the needs of learners and employers. We are simplifying the public funding system with a single adult budget. In addition, the Education Bill currently going through the House aims to remove a raft of regulations that will further free colleges to deliver for their local customers—delivering value for money and serving community needs.

Higher Education Funding Council

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with external organisations on the role of the Higher Education Funding Council in England in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51471]

Mr Willetts: Departmental Ministers have frequent meetings with arms-length bodies and other organisations about higher education, involving regular discussion about HEFCE and its functions.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students from *(a)* sixth form and *(b)* further education colleges entered university in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [50500]

Mr Hayes: The last available estimate shows that 63% of students aged 17 (who attempted at least one GCE/VCE A level or VCE Double Award level in 2005/06) from further education colleges (including sixth form colleges) progressed to higher education by age 19 in 2007/08. The Department has not yet produced data which show sixth form colleges separately from other further education colleges. Data for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in the summer.

Higher education progression rates for sixth form colleges and further education colleges were first published in a joint report by the Sutton Trust and this Department in July 2009 (page 14):

http://www.suttontrust.com/research/applications-offers-and-admissions-to-research-led-universities/

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the capacity of the director of fair access to *(a)* fulfil his statutory duty to protect the academic freedom of higher education institutions and *(b)* adhere to his Department's guidance that the director should ensure that each such institution is making sustained progress towards a more balanced and representative student body. [50857]

Mr Willetts: We have every confidence in the director of fair access to fulfil his duties.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital funding for teaching and research his Department allocated to each university in each of the last five years; how much it plans to allocate in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [49873]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The Higher Education Funding Council for England announced its capital allocations for 2011/12 to 2014/15 on 17 March 2011 and they were published on its website. These include indicative allocations for teaching capital for 2012/13 and research capital for the four years 2011/12 to 2014/15, with funding for 2012/13 to 2014/15 being indicative:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2011/grant1112/capital.htm

Funding for future years is not yet confirmed.

Capital allocations for previous years are available at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_04/

for the years 2008 to 2011, and at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_08/

for the years 2006 to 2008.

I will place copies of these in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has had with external bodies to discuss allocation of the higher education budget in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51472]

Mr Willetts: The majority of my meetings with external bodies in higher education include a discussion of funding issues. However, individual allocations to institutions are a matter for the Higher Education Funding Council for England and Ministers play no part in that process.

Higher Education: Forensic Science

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in further and higher education are studying courses in forensic science in 2010-11. [50009]

Mr Willetts: In the 2009/10 academic year, the latest year for which we have complete data, 20 students were enrolled at English further education colleges on Government-funded further education courses in forensic science.

The latest available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show in the 2009/10 academic year there were 5,640 enrolments on forensic science higher education courses at English higher education institutions. Figures for 2010/11 will be available in January 2012.

Horticulture: Qualifications

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* apprenticeships available in ornamental horticulture; and whether it has made an assessment of the change in the number of such (i) qualifications and (ii) apprenticeships in the last 10 years. [49764]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of enrolments in the Horticulture and Forestry Sector Subject Area for 2005/06, the earliest year for which we have comparable data, to 2009/10 the latest year for which we have full year data (Near-Final).

Table 1: Further education and skills (excluding apprenticeships) enrolments on the Horticulture and Forestry Sector Subject Area, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Total
2005/06	41,990
2006/07	35,770
2007/08	35,770
2008/09[1]	37,600
2009/10[1]	38,480

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information in this table is based on all Government funded learners.
3. This data include FE, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Table 2 shows apprenticeship starts on Amenity Horticulture, Horticulture and Production Horticulture frameworks from 2002/03 the earliest year for which comparable data are available to 2009/10, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts on Amenity Horticulture, Horticulture and Production Horticulture frameworks, 2002/03 to 2009/10

	Amenity Horticulture	Horticulture	Production Horticulture
2002/03	770	—	—
2003/04	930	—	—
2004/05	1,050	—	30
2005/06	1,050	—	10
2006/07	980	—	20
2007/08	1,110	—	10
2008/09	1,250	—	20
2009/10	70	1,440	—

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information in this table is based on all Government funded Apprenticeships.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the level of skills deficit in the *(a)* gardening industry and *(b)* ornamental horticulture sector; and if he will make a statement. [49767]

Mr Hayes: Lantra is the Sector Skills Council for the land-based and environmental industries. Lantra works with employers to identify skills needs and seeks to improve the match between the supply and demand for technical skills. A skills assessment of the horticulture and landscaping industry is available on the Lantra website at:

www.lantra.co.uk

Innovation: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how the funding allocated by his Department to the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre will be distributed between the constituent organisations. [51269]

Mr Willetts: Discussions are currently underway between the Technology Strategy Board and the parties that will form the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre to set the framework for building an integrated business plan that will define funding requirements. This will allow the Technology Strategy Board to finalise the overall funding the centre will receive and then how much funding each individual party will receive.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to each of the partners in the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [51366]

Mr Willetts: The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC), Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) and Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) have not received any direct funding from the Department over the last five years.

The Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) has received approximately £26.5 million from my Department. This includes £12 million for the construction and operation of a large-capacity Industrial Biotechnology Demonstration Facility; approximately £2.5 million from the Tees Valley Industrial Programme; and £12 million for Printable Electronics Technology Centre.

The Department has also provided £12 million of funding for the National Composite Centre (NCC), which is due to open in the autumn, and £19 million in to the universities of Sheffield and Manchester for the establishment and operation of the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC).

Departmental funding, where identified, was provided over the period 2009/10 to 2010/11, and does not include funding from the Regional Development Agencies, the Technology Strategy Board, the Research Councils, or the Devolved Administrations, where relevant.

Insolvency

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing a moratorium from creditor action for financially distressed individuals to increase the likelihood that they are able to enter an appropriate insolvency solution. [51087]

Mr Davey: This was one area covered by our recent call for evidence, "Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt". Officials are carefully analysing the responses at present and will be reporting to me in due course. I will then inform the House of our proposals on how to deal with all the issues covered in that document.

Local Government Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effects of reductions in funding for local authorities on the level of private sector contracts with the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [51025]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business has had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on this specific issue.

Last month the Government issued a Plan for Growth to put the UK on a path to sustainable long-term economic growth and which set out a number of specific measures to benefit the construction sector.

Meetings

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with their counterparts in *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* HM Treasury since his appointment. [51328]

Mr Davey: Ministers in this Department have had 23 meetings with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government and 31 with Ministers in HM Treasury.

New Businesses: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of his Department's provision of support for business start-ups in Kent. [51130]

Mr Prisk: The Government's plans for modernising the provision of publicly funded support, information and advice for business were set out in the "Bigger, Better Business" pamphlet published on 5 January 2011, which can be found on the BIS website at

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/b/11-515-bigger-better-business-helping-small-firms

Henceforth, the majority of publicly funded support for people wanting to start-up will be delivered online through a dedicated start-up hub within the national Business Link website. There will also be a new national contact centre for those who cannot access the information they need on the website.

The Government are also establishing local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) that will develop links to existing private sector provision for start-up support and encourage their use. The new LEP for Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex, will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of small and medium-sized businesses in Kent. [51131]

Mr Prisk: Business support is currently delivered via the regional development agencies through the Business Link regional advisory service and

www.businesslink.gov.uk

The Government recently announced reforms to the way information, guidance and advice to businesses is provided, with more focus on improving small business performance and growth, and a greater emphasis on further and better private sector provision. The "Bigger, Better Business" pamphlet sets out the plans in detail. It can be found on the BIS website at

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/b/11-515-bigger-better-business-helping-small-firms

The Government's plans include: offering online business information and tools more closely tailored to the individual needs of businesses, through improvements to the www.businesslink.gov.uk website; encouraging the development of business mentoring through business mentoring providers and the British Banking Association; and backing potential high growth SMEs through Business Coaching for Growth to optimise their development.

The Government are also establishing local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) that will develop links to existing private sector provision for start-up support and encourage their use. The new LEP for Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex, will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

In the Budget it was also announced that 21 enterprise zones will be created that will be sited within LEP areas. The first 11 have been allocated but the Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex LEP will be able to bid for an enterprise zone to be located within their LEP area in the second phase.

New College Redditch: Apprentices

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the apprenticeships announced in the 2011 Budget will be allocated to New College in Redditch. [51099]

Mr Hayes: In the Budget we announced an additional £180 million package for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeship places over the spending review period. This is on top of the plans for growth in the adult apprenticeships programme that we published in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth'[1] in November 2010.

In support of the coalition Government's principle of greater freedom, 'Skills for Sustainable Growth'[2] and 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' set out the abolition of central targets and increased freedom and flexibility for further education colleges and training organisations to respond effectively to the needs of employers, learners and their communities. It is for individual colleges and training organisations, working directly with their local partners, to determine the offer that best meets the needs of their communities. The apprenticeship places announced in the Budget are in addition to the minimum expectation of apprenticeships delivery set out in the Skills Funding Agency's final funding allocations issued to providers on 31 March 2011. I have asked the Skills Funding Agency to propose how the additional funding can best be allocated to colleges and training providers to support delivery of these additional places.

[1] Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS
http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

[2] Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS
http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Nov/skills-for-sustainable-growth

Novartis

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he or *(b)* Ministers in his Department met representatives of Novartis in the period 12 May 2010 to 16 March 2011. [50288]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr Willetts) had a telephone conference meeting with Novartis on 15 March 2011.

Office for Fair Access

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations his Department received on the role and powers of the Office for Fair Access in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51470]

Mr Willetts: Our records show that the Department has received the following numbers of parliamentary questions and general correspondence that include a reference to the Director of Fair Access or the Office for Fair Access.

	January	*February*	*March*
Parliamentary questions	4	15	4
Correspondence	2	0	6

Overseas Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1180W, on overseas students: loans, how much has been written off as bad debt from EEA students in arrears; what the monetary value of pending payments is; and if he will make a statement; [49091]

(2) how many people from *(a)* EEA countries, Switzerland and Turkey and *(b)* the UK have ceased making scheduled repayments against outstanding student loans after being declared bankrupt in the latest period for which figures are available. [49116]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) does not write off any loans as bad debt. If any borrowers are due to repay and are not doing so, the SLC will continue to recover arrears and outstanding balances until the loan(s) expire. The SLC will pursue any such borrowers through the courts if necessary.

At the SLC, loan cancellations due to bankruptcy do not occur when the borrower notifies the SLC but when the SLC processes the cancellation, i.e. when the SLC obtains evidence of the concluded bankruptcy from the borrower's elected legal practitioner. Provisions were included in the Higher Education Act 2004 to prevent student loans being written off on bankruptcy, so since then, loans have only been written off on bankruptcy which occurred prior to this legislation, the processing of which concluded more recently.

In financial year 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, approximately £1.4 million was cancelled due to bankruptcy, for approximately 300 borrowers. We cannot separately identify the nationality of those borrowers.

Overseas Trade

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the UK's share of world trade in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [50306]

Mr Prisk: UK trade has increased by 55% in real terms between 1998 and 2008. However the UK's relative share of world trade has declined over the same period from 5.7% in 1998 to 3.9% in 2008.

Our recent Trade and Investment White Paper, published in February 2011, set out our strategy to improve the UK's trade performance. The strategy has already begun to be implemented and work will continue over the coming months and years.

The White Paper announced that UK Trade and Investment's new strategy will focus on encouraging more innovative and high growth of small and medium businesses (SMEs) to export and focus on high growth and emerging markets. To support SMEs in particular, the White Paper also announced an expanded and better co-ordinated package of trade finance products on a pilot scheme basis which will be launched by April 2011.

We will continue to boost open trade, which will enable UK businesses to export more easily, through the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round, completion of bilateral trade agreements and strengthening of the Single Market Act.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment chairs the Economic Affairs Cabinet Sub Committee on Trade and Investment. This Committee will drive the implementation of the strategy, using its regular meetings to monitor progress and shape the emerging policies.

Post Office: Bank Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 833W, on the Post Office: bank services, what estimate he has made of the minimum cost of establishing a Post Bank. [51100]

Mr Davey: As set out in my previous answer to the hon. Member on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 883W, the costs of establishing a Post Bank would be determined by its operational remit and scale. As such the Government are not able to identify a minimum cost of establishing a Post Bank.

Post Offices

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what access criteria he has agreed with Post Office Ltd for the main post offices it has committed to provide by the end of the current Parliament. [51102]

Mr Davey: Under the terms of its funding from Government, Post Office Ltd has committed to adhere to the strict access criteria already in place. These will continue to apply across the whole of the network, ensuring that 99% of the population will live within three miles of a post office branch. Main post offices will typically tend to be located in town and city centres, where the access criteria are even more stringent—95% of the urban population must be within one mile of a post office branch.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which post offices will be main post offices by the end of the current Parliament; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the UK population which will be within *(a)* three miles and *(b)* six miles of a main Post Office. [51103]

Mr Davey: Post Office Ltd is in the process of planning the location and distribution of the 4,000 main post offices it will have in place by the end of this Parliament.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which post offices are to be converted into Post Office Locals by the end of the current Parliament; and how many of these will offer a narrower range of products as a result of the conversion. [51104]

Mr Davey: Post Office Ltd is currently piloting the Post Office Local model in some 60 locations across the UK. Final decision over the precise nature of services to be offered in Post Office Locals will be made by Post Office Ltd, informed by the results of these pilots. Recent research by Consumer Focus shows that 86% of existing post office services, equating to over 95% of consumer transactions by volume are already available in Post Office Local pilots. The national implementation of the Local model will begin in 2014, with around 2,000 Local branches by the end of this Parliament.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which services offered by *(a)* Crown Post Offices and *(b)* sub-post offices are not offered by a Post Office essentials service. [51105]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments are made to *(a)* sub-postmasters and *(b)* providers of Post Office essentials services by Post Office Ltd. [51106]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what compensation payments have been made to sub-postmasters for converting to Post Office Locals services as part of the Post Office Locals trial. [51107]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 742W, on the Post Office: modernisation, whether there are any additional conditions on the use of the funding package for 2011-15. [51110]

Mr Davey: The Government's £1.34 billion funding to modernise the Post Office network to safeguard its future includes as a condition a commitment from Post Office Ltd to maintain the network at its current size of at least 11,500 branches. Post Office Ltd will also continue to adhere to the strict access criteria which ensure that 99% of the national population lives within three miles of a post office branch. This is in addition to the Government's commitment that there will be no programme of closures under this Government.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of transferring regional development agency assets to local authorities and local enterprise partnerships; [50715]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of each regional development agency's assets to be transferred to local authorities and local enterprise partnerships; [50716]

(3) which assets of each regional development agency he proposes to transfer to local authorities and local enterprise partnerships; [50717]

(4) if he will publish the proposals made by each regional development agency for the disposal of its assets. [50718]

Mr Prisk: Each regional development agency (RDA) has developed a detailed plan for the disposal of its assets and liabilities and the scrutiny of the plans is ongoing. That consideration has not yet been completed but a list of land and property assets has been approved for short term market sale in line with Managing Public Money which provides that disposals will be at market value; this list will be published shortly.

We do not have a final estimate of what will go to local authorities or local enterprise partnerships. In line with my previous answer to the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 984W, in many cases local authorities, and local enterprise partnerships will be given first refusal as they were the proposed recipient in the relevant asset and liability plan. The disposals will be made in a way that seeks to secure best value for the taxpayer and minimises cost. It is for RDAs to decide when and how to release the plans as they know which aspects of the plans are commercially sensitive. We support them in being as transparent as possible.

Research: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department had with *(a)* research councils and *(b)* local authorities before taking its decision on additional capital expenditure at Daresbury, Harwell and Cambridge. [50733]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* The Department asked the seven Research Councils to identify their highest scientific priorities for a one-off injection of capital in 2011/12 in the Budget. This did not involve consultation with local authorities.

Sector Skills Councils

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to review the role of Sector Skills Councils in further education. [50918]

Mr Hayes: There are no plans for a specific review of the role of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) in further education. The role of SSCs is changing and will increasingly focus on raising employer ambition and investment in skills. The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UK CES) works with the SSCs to produce and utilise high quality sectoral labour market intelligence to reduce skill gaps, and to raise skill levels. This information helps to ensure that the further education sector provides accurate advice and guidance, as well as delivering qualifications relevant to the changing skill needs of the work force. In addition, SSCs have a central role in developing apprenticeship frameworks, and in enhancing the quality and accessibility of apprenticeships. The majority of SSCs also work closely with national skills academies to promote excellence in vocational training.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure differentiation in the level of tuition fees between higher education institutions whilst protecting the autonomy of those institutions. [50858]

Mr Willetts: No university wishing to charge over £6,000 yet knows for certain how much it will charge. This is because no university has yet signed an access agreement with the director of fair access. The guidance to the director of fair access makes clear that we expect universities to meet stringent conditions before they can charge above £6,000. However, the director is not a price regulator. What he will do is ensure that the levels of ambition of an institution's access agreement is proportionate to how much more than the basic level the institution intends to charge.

We expect there to be a range of charges and those institutions discussing higher levels all look set to include substantial fee waivers for students from poorer backgrounds.

Teachers: Training

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to fund initial teacher training for teachers in further education colleges. [51486]

Mr Hayes: For 2011/12, Further Education Initial Teacher Training (FE ITT) courses delivered by higher education institutions will continue to be funded through the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

In addition, BIS will continue to fund:

ITT courses validated by and delivered for National Awarding Bodies, via the Skills Funding Agency;

FE Fee Grants to support trainee teachers undertaking diploma level ITT on a part-time/in-service basis, provided to their employers via the Institute for Learning (IfL);

a FE bursary scheme to attract and train high quality teachers to teach STEM subjects and literacy and numeracy skills.

For 2012/13 onwards, new funding arrangements will be introduced for higher education so that funding follows the choices of individual students. We have recently asked the Association of Colleges (AoC) to lead a review of the future funding and delivery of FE Initial Teacher Training, working with other FE employer representative bodies and in consultation with wider FE stakeholders. We expect AoC to report findings to BIS by the end of May 2011.

Technology Strategy Board

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations his Department received on the role of the Technology Strategy Board in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51469]

Mr Willetts: I have regular interactions with officials, particularly the chief executive, of the Technology Strategy Board, but the Department has not had any other representations specifically on its role. The role of the Technology Strategy Board, and its programmes, such as establishing an elite network of Technology and Innovation Centres, is often raised however in the context of wider discussions with stakeholders on the Department's role in achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries.

Trade Agreements

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met (i) trade associations, (ii) charities and (iii) non-governmental organisations to discuss free trade agreements since his appointment. [51126]

Mr Prisk: Both Ministers and officials in this Department engage regularly with a wide range of stakeholders on the subject of those EU bilateral Free Trade Agreements under negotiation. This includes regular consultation with trade associations, charities and non-governmental organisations.

Training: English Language

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what methods he plans to use in his Department's equality impact assessment on the changes to English for Speakers of Other Languages funding; and what the name is of each group officials of his Department will consult as part of this process; [51482]

(2) whether he plans to consult with institutions that provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses on his Department's equality impact assessment on changes to ESOL course funding. [51485]

Mr Hayes: The equality impact assessment published alongside 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes to skills funding may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by the Department, and I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

The Department's equality impact assessment is drawing on published analytical information and on views offered to us in person or in writing by a wide range of organisations with an interest in this area, including correspondence from learners and their representatives and principals of further education colleges.

UK Trade & Investment: Official Hospitality

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* hospitality was received and *(b)* expenses were incurred by each member of the board of UK Trade & Investment in each of the last three years. [47983]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* The information is as follows:

(a) UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI) board members received hospitality as per the following table:

Summary of hospitality for UK board members—number of occasions

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Chief Executive			
Breakfast	6	5	4
Lunch	10	9	9
Dinner	13	9	9
Reception	10	10	18
Deputy/Acting Chief Executive			
Lunch	1	2	3
Dinner	1	1	5
Reception	1	4	0
MD Sectors Group			
Breakfast	1	0	7
Lunch	4	12	10
Dinner	6	9	13
Reception	5	25	14
MD Marketing Group			
Reception	1	0	0
MD Business Group			
Lunch	3	3	12
Dinner	0	5	5
Reception[1]	0	0	3
MD Defence and Security Organisation			
Breakfast	1	2	1
Lunch	25	22	16
Dinner[2]	13	30	14
Reception	12	23	20
Cultural event	1	1	0

[1] One occasion included accommodation.

[2] Two occasions included accommodation.

(b) While UKTI records expenses claimed personally by each board member, UKTI does not centrally hold records of expenses that are incurred on their behalf by offices overseas. UKTI has offices in 162 locations across 96 countries. To obtain the information, for each executive board member, would involve tasking each office to review and collate their records and this can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-executive board members receive attendance expenses and these are disclosed annually in UKTI's Annual Report and Accounts (HC 3).

UK Trade & Investment: Private Sector

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking *(a)* to increase awareness of private sector approaches and *(b)* ensure that his Department makes effective use of private sector expertise with UK Trade & Investment; and if he will make a statement. [50314]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is seeking to emulate the best of the private sector professional services organisations. It has developed a range of corporate training programmes to underpin new business methods, such as relationship building with the most significant inward investors and exporters. UKTI's aim is to develop innovative approaches to working with the private sector in order to raise the quality of its services, build successful relationships with trade and investment clients and to achieve higher levels of customer satisfaction.

UKTI is a service delivery organisation and the use of private sector expertise is integral to the development and the delivery of these services. In addition, more than 200 senior business people help to shape and support UKTI's strategy and service delivery. 1,100, or 85% of people working in UKTI's trade teams overseas are locally engaged, and most of these have business experience. Trade and investment delivery services in England, apart from London, are outsourced to private sector organisations.

Unskilled Agency Workers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provides to unskilled agency workers in the construction industry aged 16 to 24 to assist them in furthering their careers; and if he will make a statement. [51024]

Mr Prisk: The Government have a responsibility to ensure that all those who need additional help can increase their skills and progress. We fully fund training for young adults undertaking their first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualification, and any adult who has a basic skills need is entitled to free training.

The Government have put apprenticeships at the heart of the FE and Skills system and they are a key route for young people to enter and progress in the construction industry. We are committed to significant growth in the number of places available and the Construction Industrial Training Board (CITB) positively encourages young people to enter the industry by promoting the availability of apprenticeships.

The CITB also delivers strategic careers information, advice and guidance to careers professionals to ensure they are fully informed of the wide range of careers qualifications and progression routes available to young people across all occupations within the construction and built environment sector.

Visits: Salford

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister with responsibility State for Business and Enterprise last visited Salford in a ministerial capacity. [51497]

Mr Prisk: Although I allocate considerable time to making regional visits, I have not unfortunately, been able to visit Salford, near Manchester yet. I have, however, recently visited the North East.

Vocational Training

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the contribution of vocational training and apprenticeships to the economy; and if he will make a statement. [51164]

Mr Hayes: Research commissioned by the Department suggests that further education participants who started a qualification in 2008/09 will generate an additional £75 billion for the economy over their working lives. These benefits include increased wages and improved employment prospects for individuals, as well as benefits to employers stemming from increased productivity.

This research examines the economic value generated by Government-funded post-19 qualifications—including apprenticeships, national vocational qualifications (NVQs) undertaken in college, training provider and workplace settings, and basic skills qualifications—and the full report can be accessed at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/research-analysis/research-reports/measuring-economic-impact-further-education

Ministerial Correction

Monday 28 March 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Pfizer

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had with representatives of Pfizer *(a)* before and *(b)* after its decision to close its research and development site in Kent. [38427]

[Official Report, 4 February 2011, Vol. 522, c. 976W.]

Letter of correction from Mr David Willetts:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Ellesmere Port and Neston (Andrew Miller) on 4 February 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Willetts: The Prime Minister met Jeff Kindler, CEO of Pfizer Inc, on October 21 and they spoke on the telephone in December 2010. I met Ian Read, Jeff Kindler's successor, on 24 January 2011 at 10 Downing street and officials have since held several discussions with the senior management of Pfizer UK.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Willetts: The Prime Minister met Jeff Kindler, CEO of Pfizer Inc, on 21 July and they spoke on the telephone in November 2010. I met Ian Read, Jeff Kindler's successor, on 24 January 2011 at 10 Downing street and officials have since held several discussions with the senior management of Pfizer UK.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 29 March 2011

JUSTICE

Assaults on Police: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many assaults on police officers resulted in *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences in the latest period for which figures are available; [44933]

(2) how many cautions were issued in each of the last three years for triable offences. [44934]

[Official Report, 10 March 2011, Vol. 524, c. 1271W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Crispin Blunt:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 10 March 2011. The figures in table 2 were incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants sentenced and given an immediate custody for an assault on a constable at all courts, in England and Wales for 2009 (latest available) is provided in table 1. This is a summary only offence which is charged where little or no physical harm is involved. Where there are more serious injuries this would result in a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and it is not possible to say how many convictions for this offence arise from assaults on police officers.

The number of offenders cautioned for indictable only offences in England and Wales, 2007 to 2009 (latest available) is provided in table 2.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Table 1: Number of defendants sentenced and given an immediate custody for assault on a constable[1] at all courts, England and Wales, 2009[2,3]

Statute	*Offence*	*Sentenced*	*Custodial sentence*	*Other disposals[4]*
Police Act 1996	Assault on a constable	9,201	1,457	7,744

[1] Police Act 1996 s.89(1)—Assault on a constable.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their Inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Other disposals include: absolute discharge, conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of offenders cautioned[1,2] for indictable only offences, England and Wales, 2007-09[3]

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Indictable only	5,371	1,945	1,405

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants sentenced and given an immediate custody for an assault on a constable at all courts, in England and Wales for 2009 (latest available) is provided in table 1. This is a summary only offence which is charged where little or no physical harm is involved. Where there are more serious injuries this would result in a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and it is not possible to say how many convictions for this offence arise from assaults on police officers.

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[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their Inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Other disposals include: absolute discharge, conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of offenders cautioned[1,2] for indictable only offences, England and Wales, 2007-09[3]

	2007	2008	2009
Indictable only	2,676	1,945	1,405

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 31 March 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Draft Social Security (Reduced Rates of Class 1 Contributions, Rebates and Minimum Contributions) Order 2011

The following response was given by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb) to the hon. Member for Leeds West (Rachel Reeves) during the First Delegated Legislation Committee debate on the Draft Social Security (Reduced Rates of Class 1 Contributions, Rebates and Minimum Contributions) Order 2011 on 21 March 2011.

Steve Webb: The process is neutral: as the rebate falls, so too does the promise that has to be matched. Schemes could, if they wanted to—this is a substantive point—reduce their accrual rates within the scheme.

[Official Report, First Delegated Legislation Committee, 21 March 2011, c. 8.]

Letter of correction from Steve Webb:

I made the above statement in my response to the hon. Member for Leeds West (Rachel Reeves).

The correct response should have been:

Steve Webb: When the rebate rate is reduced in 2012, the reference scheme test for contracted-out salary-related schemes—Defined Benefit—will remain the same, so it is schemes that offer benefits that are more generous than the reference scheme test that could choose to adjust their benefits in order to take account of a reduction in the rebate.

Ministerial Corrections

Friday 1 April 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what proportion of *(a)* members of the House of Commons Management Board, *(b)* heads of department of the House of Commons and *(c)* heads of each office or service in each House of Commons department are women. [47823]

[Official Report, 18 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 695W.]

Letter of correction from Mr John Thurso:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) on 18 March 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

John Thurso: The information is as follows:

(a) The House of Commons Management Board comprises the Clerk of the House (Chair), the Directors General of the four departments of the House and the Director of PICT, which is a joint department of the two Houses. There is also an external member. The proportion of women is 17%. A new department, the Department of Finance, will be launched on 1 April 2011. The Head of the new department will sit on the Management Board, and her presence will alter the proportion of women on the Board to 29%. *(b)* The proportion of women who are heads of the four current departments of the House is zero and will rise to 20% of five departments in April. If PICT is included, the figures are 17.5% and 33% respectively. *(c)* Currently, there are 27 Directors/Heads of Office. 10 of these (43%) are women. If PICT is included, the figure is 37%.

The correct answer should have been:

John Thurso: The information is as follows:

(a) The House of Commons Management Board comprises the Clerk of the House (Chair), the Directors General of the four departments of the House and the Director of PICT, which is a joint department of the two Houses. There is also an external member. The proportion of women is 17%. A new department, the Department of Finance, will be launched on 1 April 2011. The Head of the new department will sit on the Management Board, and her presence will alter the proportion of women on the Board to 29%. *(b)* The proportion of women who are heads of the four current departments of the House is zero and will rise to 20% of five departments in April. If PICT is included, the figures are 20% and 33% respectively. *(c)* Currently, there are 23 Directors/Heads of Office below Head of Department level. 10 of these (43%) are women. If PICT is included, the figure is 37%.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Support Services

The following is the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller) relating to questions from the hon. Member for Milton Keynes South (Iain Stewart) and the hon. Member for Battersea (Jane Ellison) during Work and Pensions Question Time on 28 March 2011.

3. **Iain Stewart** (Milton Keynes South) (Con): When he plans to respond to the review of employment support services for disabled people conducted by Liz Sayce. [49040]

10. **Jane Ellison** (Battersea) (Con): When he plans to respond to the review of employment support services for disabled people conducted by Liz Sayce. [49047]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): Liz Sayce is due to submit her independent review of specialist disability employment services by the summer of 2012. We look forward to her recommendations and will respond in due course.

[Official Report, 28 March 2011, Vol. 526, c. 3.]

Letter of correction from Maria Miller:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 28 March 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): Liz Sayce is due to submit her independent review of specialist disability employment services in summer 2011. We look forward to her recommendations and will respond in due course.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 4 April 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Unpublished Research Reports: Immigration, the Economy and Regeneration

The following is an extract from a written ministerial statement on 'Unpublished Research Reports: Immigration, the Economy and Regeneration' given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 1 March 2011.

(ix) *Modelling and forecasting county court claims and orders for mortgage repossessions.*

This report by Professor John Muellbauer and Janine Aron was commissioned jointly by the former National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and the UK Spatial Economic Centre. The study explores the determinants of mortgage possession court orders as well as forecasting court orders on a regional basis for England and Wales from 2011 to 2015. It observed that the recent house price and credit boom of 2006-08 had increased the proportion of households with overstretched budgets and over-extended debt relative to their assets. The most important determinant of court claims and orders was found to be the debt to income ratio. This report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £30,366.

[Official Report, 1 March 2011, Vol. 524, c. 19-21WS.]

Letter of correction from Mr Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in the written ministerial statement given on 1 March 2011. The penultimate sentence in the text in the section on the research project on mortgage repossessions should have referred to the debt service ratio, as the most important determinant of court claims, and not the debt to income ratio.

The correct text should have read:

(ix) *Modelling and forecasting county court claims and orders for mortgage repossessions.*

This report by Professor John Muellbauer and Janine Aron was commissioned jointly by the former National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and the UK Spatial Economic Centre. The study explores the determinants of mortgage possession court orders as well as forecasting court orders on a regional basis for England and Wales from 2011 to 2015. It observed that the recent house price and credit boom of 2006-08 had increased the proportion of households with overstretched budgets and over-extended debt relative to their assets. The most important determinant of court claims and orders was found to be the debt service ratio. This report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £30,366.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Air Passenger Duty

The following is the answer given by the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, the right hon. Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Belfast East (Naomi Long) during Northern Ireland Question Time on 23 March 2011.

3. **Naomi Long** (Belfast East) (Alliance): What assessment he has made of the likely effects of changes in air passenger duty on business travel between Northern Ireland and London. [47494]

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr Hugo Swire): I have had meetings with the Northern Ireland Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and with my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to discuss air passenger duty. My Treasury colleagues fully understand the issues involved. The rates that took effect last November were, of course, set and legislated for by the previous Government.

Naomi Long: I thank the Minister for his answer. He will be aware that, in addition to air passenger duty, Heathrow and Gatwick intend to levy passenger landing charges for regional flights, which will compound the problem. Will he confirm that this matter is at the top of his agenda, so that we can ensure that Northern Ireland businesses have access to the capital?

Mr Swire: Indeed; these things have been discussed at ministerial level. I am glad that my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury is here to listen to the hon. Lady's comments. We take this matter very seriously. A lot of the issues to do with Gatwick and Heathrow are commercial matters that are more properly dealt with by BAA.

[Official Report, 23 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 934.]

Letter of correction from Mr Hugo Swire:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 23 March 2011. It has come to our attention that commercial matters at Gatwick airport are not the responsibility of BAA, who recently sold the airport to a consortium, with the largest shareholder being Global Infrastructure Partners.

The correct answer should have been:

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr Hugo Swire): Indeed; these things have been discussed at ministerial level. I am glad that my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury is here to listen to the hon. Lady's comments. We take this matter very seriously. A lot of the issues to do with Gatwick and Heathrow are commercial matters that are more properly dealt with by Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) and BAA respectively.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 5 April 2011

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equal Opportunities: Nationality

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what guidance *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission issues on the practice of businesses offering discounts to persons based on their nationality. [47854]

[Official Report, 21 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 763W.]

Letter of correction from Lynne Featherstone:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 21 March 2011. It is the Equality and Human Rights Commission that has published non-statutory guidance on the Equality Act 2010, not the European Court of Human Rights.

The full answer given was as follows:

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has not issued any specific guidance relevant to the practice of business offering discounts to persons based on their nationality. The European Court of Human Rights has published non-statutory guidance on the Equality Act 2010 for service providers.

It would not normally be lawful for a business to offer discounts based on the protected characteristic of race, which includes nationality and ethnic or national origins.

The correct answer should have been:

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has not issued any specific guidance relevant to the practice of business offering discounts to persons based on their nationality. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published non-statutory guidance on the Equality Act 2010 for service providers.

It would not normally be lawful for a business to offer discounts based on the protected characteristic of race, which includes nationality and ethnic or national origins.